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Brooke urges Ulster talks on devolution

'Enough in common to break deadlock'

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, signalled yesterday that he believed there was now sufficient "common ground" among the constitutional parties to form the basis of talks towards a devolved government for the province.

In a keynote speech, he urged the constitutional parties to seize the opportunity to begin such talks.

Mr Brooke's remarks, which officials worked on throughout Monday, were seen last night as an attempt to break the political deadlock.

It was notable for its use of the word "common ground" to describe the province's politicians overcame obstacles created by their past attitudes towards the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Mr Brooke told businessmen in Bangor, Co Down, that his recent round of discussions with party leaders had convinced him that there was widespread support for some measure of devolution.

But the Secretary of State issued a warning that converting these hopes into constructive dialogue would not be easy. "I would not wish to raise hopes unduly," he said. "Much work needs to be done, but there may now in my judgment be enough common ground to make worthwhile the start of talks soon on new arrangements for exercising political power within Northern Ireland. I do hope that politicians here will make the most of the opportunity which may now exist."

Mr Brooke's comments reflect a general underlying sense of optimism within Ulster political circles that an opportunity for a new start may present itself in the coming months.

The positive evidence for that has been the mounting sense of impatience with the political deadlock and, more importantly, the steady apparent dilution of Unionist preconditions for coming to the negotiating table.

Just six months ago Unionist leaders were uniformly and rigidly adhering to their call for the scrapping of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, signed by Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Charles Haughey.

That consensus has now been broken as the more progressive among them, notably Mr Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, have publicly explored the possibility of using a gap of some kind between Anglo-Irish Conference meetings together with a temporary redeployment of civil servants at the Anglo-Irish Secretariat to create an opportunity for talks.

It was notable that Mr Brooke went out of his way to reassure Unionist opinion

that the constitutional position of Northern Ireland could not be threatened by discussions towards a devolved administration.

He also appeared to signal — in phrasing welcomed by Unionist politicians — that both the Irish and British governments would be prepared to consider sympathetically the implications that talks may have for the Anglo-Irish Agreement and the workings of the inter-governmental conference.

But at Westminster it was made clear that "at present" the Government was not considering any alternative to the agreement because none had been put to them. "Any possible alternative is something that should be presented to us on an all-party basis".

Mr Brooke identified four target areas — what he described as "certain realities which could not be ignored" — where agreement was essential:

- The establishment of workable and acceptable arrangements for the exercise of devolved powers.
- The creation of democratic institutions which would give appropriate weight to both majority and minority aspirations and views.
- The incorporation of the "legitimate interest" of the Irish government in Ulster without any dilution of United Kingdom sovereignty.
- The establishment of an effective local political contribution to the security of the province.

Last night Mr James Moynihan, the leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, said the speech indicated that the Secretary of State had made progress in talks with the Dublin government and other constitutional parties on Unionist demands.

Mr Robinson welcomed the speech and particularly the emphasis on seeking eventual devolution. "I think Mr Brooke is giving a nod in the direction of the two unionist leaders that progress can be made."

A spokesman for Mr John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, while welcoming the speech, said that focusing exclusively on devolution was premature.

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MP hails verdict as moral victory



Mr Ron Brown, the Labour MP, leaving Lewes Crown Court with his solicitor, Mr Chris Lethem, after being fined £1,000 for causing criminal damage at the home of his former mistress, Mrs Nona Longden. He was acquitted of theft. Mr Brown described the outcome as "a moral victory." (Report, page 3).

Speaker suspends House after row

By Robin Oakley
and Sheila Gunn

Personal allegations against a minister by a Labour MP yesterday brought the biggest parliamentary clash seen by viewers since television came to Westminster last autumn.

They came after claims that Mr Michael Forsyth, Scottish health minister, had links through a public relations company to firms which could benefit from lucrative NHS contracts.

The allegations led to the suspension first of a Commons standing committee examining the National Health Service Bill and then of the House of Commons itself after a furious procedural argument.

The Government was embarrassed when Sir Geoffrey Howe finally agreed to withdraw a draconian motion he had proposed to give the committee chairman, Dame Janet Fookes, powers to suspend the Labour backbencher, Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, MP for Workington, who defied her rulings.

The MP promised not to repeat his disruptive behaviour at future sittings of the committee.

But Conservative MPs and ministers were furious that the Speaker, who appeared to change his mind more than once, in effect allowed Mr Campbell-Savours to make in the Commons the detailed speech that he had tried to make in committee containing allegations about the business connections of Mr Forsyth, Minister for Health in the Scottish Office and chairman of the Scottish Conservative party.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Health Secretary, intervened in the Commons during Mr Campbell-Savours' speech. Continued on page 24, col 4

Plea for calm during Gorbachov visit

President Gorbachov will arrive in Lithuania tomorrow, a day after he was originally expected, a Communist Party official here said last night.

Mr Vladimir Beryozov, the Lithuanian party Second Secretary, said Mr Gorbachov would tour the Baltic republic, ending his visit by attending a local party meeting at the weekend.

The announcement of the Thursday arrival came after confusion about the date of the Soviet leader's visit to the republic, where local Communists last month voted to set up their own party, independent of Moscow. The Kremlin has not yet officially confirmed the date.

Sajudis, Lithuania's nationalist mass movement, yesterday decided to go ahead with plans to stage rallies to demonstrate local support for independence, despite objections from the newly-formed Lithuanian Communist Party.

After a hurried meeting yesterday between Sajudis and local Communist leaders, Mr Vytautas Landsbergis, the chairman of Sajudis, confirmed his organization's decision to stage the rallies.

Yesterday Mr Beryozov appealed to the people of Lithuania to "behave themselves in a calm, European manner without fevers or passions" when they turned out at rallies to mark Mr Gorbachov's visit.

In Lithuania Mr Gorbachov will join a team of senior party officials from the party's Central Committee in Moscow. The Central Committee will decide on what action should be taken later this month.

Mr Landsbergis said: "The rally could cause some unpleasantness and turmoil for Mr Gorbachov. We are calling on our people not to make any rash or hurtful statements during the demonstration. We want them to show their determination for independence but we don't want them to do that in a loud, aggressive way."

Party activists in mainly Armenian Nagorno-Karabakh walked out of their offices in the capital, Stepanakert, rather than meet a delegation led by Mr Abdul Vezirov, the Azerbaijani Communist Party chief, leaving the visitors stranded at the airport.

Armenians snub: Armenian Communists snubbed a top Azerbaijani comrade yesterday, underscoring tension between the two republics over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh district in the Soviet Union's troubled south (Reuters reports).

INSIDE

Transferring to freedom

● The Ceausescu family ran their country's football teams to suit themselves, demanding the best players and manipulating results. We continue our series on Romanian sport after the revolution with a look at how the authorities are trying to bring reality back to the game: page 42

Women at the helm

● The all-women crew of Maiden have confounded the critics, and proved their sailing prowess, by leading their class in the Whitbread Round the World race: page 17

PORTFOLIO PLATINUM

● Four people shared yesterday's Portfolio Platinum £4,000 prize (see page 3). Today's chance to win £22,000: page 30

Weightlifting drugs inquiry

The Sports Council is to investigate doping control in weightlifting after Dean Willey became the first athlete to be dropped from a British team for the Commonwealth Games because of a positive drugs test.

The Council yesterday announced that it had agreed to a request from the British Amateur Weightlifters Association (BAWA) to review drug control procedures. Page 46

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Cost of petrol goes up as world oil prices fall

By Colin Nairn, Economics Correspondent

The return of mild weather in the United States has triggered a sharp drop in world market oil prices, but it comes too late to prevent a steep rise in prices at the petrol pumps in Britain.

Today Shell raises the price of a gallon of leaded four-star by 5.5p to 189.1p to reflect the surge in oil product prices during extremely cold weather across the Atlantic recently. British Petroleum has already put up its price 3.2p to 186.9p.

Despite the appearance of forecast prices moving the wrong way, the oil companies reject any suggestion of embarrassment, pointing out

that the latest price increases are merely passing on, with a time lag, rises in the international markets before Christmas. Pump price changes always trailed spot market developments, BP said.

Shell said it could look at new price moves next week.

The recent surge in petrol and diesel prices on the international market came after strong US demand for heating oil made refiners switch production away from other products. The fall in the crude oil price is of less impact, as crude accounts for only about a third of pump prices.

Salmonella in eggs

No return for 'little lion'

By Sheila Gunn
Political Reporter

A call for British eggs to be stamped again with the "little lion" symbol to help consumers avoid imported eggs carrying higher health risks was yesterday rejected by the Government.

European Community rules ban the marking of individual eggs with the country of origin although boxes can be labelled. The Commons agriculture select committee had called on ministers to fight for a derogation because of the health risks from imports.

However, Mr David Maclean, Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, replied that it would take months to fight for a derogation which probably would not be granted. Instead, he said, he would focus on improving Community health standards.

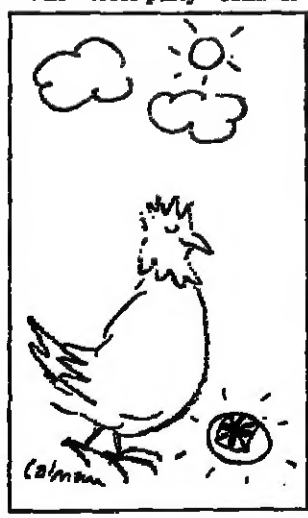
"What we could do tomorrow is mark every single packet of eggs. We will be encouraging supermarkets to stock eggs which are British only and we can put up signs in the shops saying they are only British eggs," he said.

The cross-party committee's second investigation into salmonella found that British eggs are safer than imports because of the tighter checks brought in since Mrs Edwina Currie provoked the salmonella-in-eggs scare.

However, the new controls and the results of the scare, when consumption dropped, are putting British producers out of business while causing an increase in imports. They rose from around seven million a month last February to more than 58 million in September, Mr Jerry Wiggins, the committee chairman, said.

"The Government spent a lot of money cleaning up British industry, therefore it is ridiculous to import a lot of eggs with lower standards."

"We were not happy that eggs come from countries with Continued on page 24, col 1



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BBC censors 'independent' report on Radio 3

By Richard Evans
Media Editor



The BBC censored a critical report about Radio 3 broadcast this week on *See For Yourself*, the supposedly independent and impartial review of the corporation's annual activities.

Mr Michael Checkland, director general, intervened personally after Mr John Drummond, controller of Radio 3, threatened to resign if the eight-minute item was screened in its original form.

Fundamental changes were subsequently made to the report, commissioned by the BBC from Chrysalis Television, a leading independent programme maker, resulting in an "enormous internal row" inside the corporation, according to informed sources.

It's a good idea and entirely logical to let the licence-payers see where their money is going. Gone, after all, are the old days when the BBC hid its head behind closed doors.

A quote from Terry Wogan, presenter of *See For Yourself*, in *Radio Times*. What viewers saw on Sunday evening was substantially different in tone and content from the original item made by Chrysalis at the BBC's request.

An interview containing criticism of Radio 3 was dramatically reduced in length by BBC staff, archive material was slotted in and the final re-edited version was remarkably complimentary

about Radio 3. The *See For Yourself* exercise began in 1987 and is very much the brain-child of Mr Marmaduke Hussey, the corporation chairman, who regards it as a much-needed exercise in public accountability.

The "shareholders' report", as he dubbed it, goes behind the scenes of the BBC and examines ways in which licence-payers' money is spent. Last year, the BBC decided the reports on its various facets should be made by outside producers so that the programme was seen as being unbiased and fair.

However, after the large-scale changes made to the Radio 3 report, critics will suggest that *See For Yourself* is nothing more than a BBC propaganda exercise. Mr Checkland and Mr Hussey are due to Continued on page 24, col 6

NEWS ROUNDUP

Controls on farm grants criticized

Complaints of pollution from farm waste have nearly tripled in the past 10 years in spite of grants to farmers for clean-up projects, the National Audit Office (NAO) said yesterday.

An investigation by the NAO, the public sector's financial watchdog, found that neither government departments nor water authorities checked up regularly on the use of anti-pollution grants, resulting in some schemes not being completed to specification (Sheila Gunn writes).

It also disclosed that early grants given under the Government's diversification schemes to encourage farmers to venture into new enterprises are not always going to viable projects. The report complained that many of the grants, totalling £1.6 billion, given to British farmers since 1980 too often produced only small increases in income. The Commons Public Accounts Committee is expected to take evidence on the NAO's findings next week.

National Audit Office report: grants to aid the structure of agriculture in Great Britain. (Stationery Office, £4.60.)

Terrorist jail appeal

A Palestinian terrorist suspected of being involved in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 appealed yesterday against a life sentence imposed in Sweden (Kerry Gill writes). Mohamed Abu Talb, aged 35, was jailed by a Swedish district court on December 21, exactly a year after 270 died in the Lockerbie disaster, for his part in terrorist attacks in Copenhagen and Amsterdam in 1985. Mr Owen-Erik Sjogren, his lawyer, said he would appeal to a regional court in Stockholm. Talb denies any involvement in the Lockerbie bombing.

Burglar kills rector

The Rev Stephen Hilliard, a Church of Ireland rector, died yesterday after his throat was cut as he tackled an intruder in his home. He was found by his wife Betty at the foot of the staircase in their house in Rathdun, Co Wicklow. He was taken to a Dublin hospital but died a few hours later. Mr Hilliard, aged 42, was ordained in 1986 and had taken up ministering in Rathdun only three weeks ago. He was a journalist with *The Irish Times* for 18 years.

North Sea jobs bonus

A sub-sea construction company employing 1,100 highly-skilled oil industry workers has been set up in Aberdeen to provide services for the new generation of North Sea oil fields (David Young writes). The company, Rockwater, formed by Brown and Root Vickers, the off-shore construction group, and Smit, the Dutch specialist diving company, has won contracts to install the first seven emergency cut-off valves beneath oil platforms after the Piper Alpha disaster.

Sinn Fein man held

Mr Danny Morrison, the vice-president of Sinn Fein, was still in police custody last night after being arrested on Sunday in connection with an alleged kidnapping (Edward Gorman writes). Mr Morrison, whose office has denied that he was involved in an abduction, was among nine people arrested in west Belfast during a large-scale police and Army operation.

Castle to house opera

An early 19th-century folly, Gwrych Castle at Abergele in north Wales, is to be turned into a 2,000-seat opera house dedicated to the late Richard Burton, the actor, by Mr Nick Tavaglione, a Californian property magnate, if his £10 million scheme gets planning approval (Simon Tait writes). Mrs Rikman Sukarno, the opera singer wife of the former president of Indonesia, will also be involved at the "witch's castle" as she wants to start an opera school there.

RAF crews survive mid-air collision

By Michael Evans and Peter Davenport

The crews of two RAF jets, a Tornado and a Jaguar, escaped yesterday after a mid-air collision, apparently during separate low-level training sorties.

A board of inquiry was set up to discover why the Jaguar jet fighter, flying in a formation of three spread over about half a mile, collided with a Tornado, which was flying in the opposite direction.

The pilot and navigator of the Tornado ejected before the aircraft crashed into the ground near Hexham in Northumberland.

One of the men was believed to have broken both legs. Debris was scattered over two big roads, the A68 and A69.

The Jaguar clipped the tail of the Tornado, and was damaged, but the pilot managed to fly it to RAF Leeming in North Yorkshire.

There have been numerous complaints about low-flying exercises by RAF planes in the area of the accident.

One witness said the two aircraft involved were operating at "tree top level", and that the wingtip of the Jaguar, which was approaching from the south, clipped the tail of the Tornado, which was flying in from the north.

The Tornado flipped on to its side, and there was an explosion and a burst of flame before it plunged into a field adjoining the A68 at Riding

Mill. The road was blocked in both directions by the wreckage. One piece hit a lorry, but there were no reports of injuries on the ground.

The Tornado had flown from its base at RAF Lossbrough in West Germany on a training sortie in the area.

It is common for single Tornados to fly over at high level from West Germany, carry out a low-level sortie and then return to base at high altitude. The Jaguar had taken off from RAF Coltishall in Norfolk.

Although it is not clear why the collision occurred, it is likely that the pilots failed to spot each other in time.

Neither aircraft would have been flying with its radar switched on, and the pilots would simply have been looking out for other jets in their vicinity.

The training sorties are arranged by the RAF so that there should not be too many aircraft in one area at any time.

The crew of the Tornado were taken to the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle, after being picked up by a Sea King search and rescue helicopter operating out of RAF Boulmer on the Northumberland coast.

In September last year, two RAF crewmen were killed when their Hawk jet crashed into a field after taking off from RAF Brawdy in Wales.

Mr John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, called for a big investment in high-technology equipment to bring the increasing traffic using the motorway under tighter speed controls.

Pharos Marine, of Brentford, west London, manufacturer of the fog detectors, refused to comment.

The three members of one family killed in the accident at 10.15pm on Monday were Mr Roger Bean, aged 45, his wife, Irene, aged 46, and their daughter, Sarah, aged 22, all of Calverton Road, Stony Stratford, near Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

Miss Bean's boy friend, Mr Darren Coldridge, was seriously injured. The couple, who had planned to marry, had been on a new year holiday in Berlin.

Mr Bean, a director of Fred Cox Metals, scrap merchants, of Milton Keynes, and his wife had driven to meet

them at Heathrow airport and were going home when their car was involved in the crash in dense fog. Their car was crushed by a coach. Other cars, lorries and vans ploughed into the wreckage.

The other two who died were Mr Harpal Saroya, aged 32, of the Bronx, New York City, and Mr Ousden Minhas, aged 52, of Cricket Close, Walsall, Birmingham. Two people in the car with them, Harjit and Hardip Minhas, were injured.

The M25, in spite of its problems, lies ninth in the motorway accident table. The M1, M2, M3, M4, M11, M23, M53 and M74 all have higher accident rates.

The latest available figures show there were 21 deaths from 685 accidents on the M25 in 1987; it is not known how many occurred in fog.

Twenty three children from a middle school in Polesworth, Warwickshire, were taken to hospital in Tamworth, Staffordshire, last night after windows in their coach were broken by metal rods on a lorry. Three had eye injuries.

Striking ambulance officers keep fires of pay protest burning
Backbenchers say dispute may soon end

By Robin Oakley and Tim Jones

Ministers were continuing to take a tough line in the ambulance dispute yesterday, although Conservative MPs maintained that an end to the 18-week struggle was in sight.

Government sources were insistent that no more money would be forthcoming. The only purpose of any further meeting between National Health Service employers and the unions was for a settlement on a nine to 16 per cent rise over 18 months, terms that had long been available.

They were equally insistent that concessions from the ambulance officers—an agreement to drop the question of "linkage" with other emergency service workers' pay and to drop a demand for an 11.4 per cent single year increase—should be put in writing before further talks could take place.

However, Conservative MPs who met ambulance union representatives yesterday said last night that "talks about talks" between the two sides were likely to have started before an Opposition-staged Commons debate on the dispute tomorrow.

Mr Jerry Hayes, Tory MP for Harlow, said: "There is a lot of common ground if only both sides will see it." A settlement had nearly been achieved before Christmas and had broken down because of a "morass of mistrust and misunderstanding".

He believed that a settlement could be achieved without any "new money" on the basis of the £6 billion which had been "found" already.

Other Tory MPs who met Mr Bob Abberley, parliamentary liaison officer for the five ambulance unions, included Mr Richard Holt, MP for Langborough, and Sir David Price, MP for Eastleigh.

There is considerable pressure among Conservative MPs for the Government to find a way out of the dispute,



Striking ambulance staff at the Deptford station, Old Kent Road, east London, burning scrap wood to keep warm as they continued their protest yesterday.

although without conceding terms that would lead to a flood of public-sector wage claims and an eventual loss of jobs as a result.

Mr Hayes said yesterday that the search was on for a mechanism that would guarantee the value of any settlement reached and that did not involve linkage with other workers, arbitration or a pay review body for officers.

While ministers were prepared to dig in for a long dispute rather than concede inflationary wage increases, there was a discernible willingness in government ranks to seek a way out of the damaging dispute if the striking officers could be persuaded to formalize the scaling down of their claims. The dispute figured at the first Prime Min-

ister's Question Time of the decade when Mrs Margaret Thatcher responded to an invitation from Mr Neil Kinnock to pay tribute to the ambulance workers at the scene of the previous night's crash on the M25 and to agree that it was inaccurate and insulting for them to be described as merely professional drivers.

Ignoring the reference to a previous description of some ambulance drivers by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, the Prime Minister said she gladly paid tribute to the ambulance workers, many of who were still working full time and providing emergency cover.

The Government wanted to increase the number of ambulance staff with para-medi-

cal skills and it was for that reason that the nine to 16.3 per cent pay offer was slanted towards those with para-medical qualifications, she said.

With both sides in the dispute keeping at arm's length yesterday, the mood in the capital hardened when the London Ambulance Service admitted it had immobilized 500 ambulances and vehicles normally used by the crews.

The National Union of Public Employees (Nupe) described the action as "disgraceful and irresponsible". It said: "It is hard to credit this action after unpaid crews again proved their dedication by rushing to the scene of the M25 crash."

London Ambulance said that because of the agreement with unions to cover emergen-

cies there were still between 160 and 180 "frontline" vehicles covering the capital.

A spokesman said: "We have immobilized the vehicles to stop crews using them in the kind of demonstration which blocked Trafalgar Square just before Christmas or to go shopping or generally to use them for purposes other than intended."

In a separate development, the Association of London Authorities said it was planning to talk to unions and London Ambulance about the possibility of setting up a temporary ambulance service of the kind introduced in the West Midlands.

Mrs Margaret Hodge, association chairwoman, said: "Londoners are being placed at risk from the inadequate

and unprofessional temporary service by the NHS management. We are taking responsible steps to do this, and would like the Government to do the same."

The association estimates that the dispute has cost London £7 million so far, £4 million of which had been used to pay police overtime.

However, the initiative was dismissed by the unions and the ambulance service. Mr Chris Humphreys, senior London officer for Nupe, said: "We have made clear we are not interested in seeing local authorities in London establishing a separate ambulance service. We need to get an ambulance service in London back into operation but the answer to that is to solve the dispute nationally."

Lean times ahead, graduates told

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

The days when a graduate could walk into a job in the City at a huge salary have vanished as fast as they came, the Association of Graduate Recruiters said yesterday.

Its annual report warned students that the "seller's market", in which anyone with a degree could be sure of a job, was a thing of the past and urged students to be realistic about career prospects.

The association, which represents 550 big employers of graduates, predicted that the onset of economic recession over the next 12 months would lead to a slowing in industry's demand for graduates.

For the first time in recent years the association forecast that increases in graduate starting pay would fall below the rate of inflation as companies abandoned the use of high salaries to lure recruits.

Miss Helen Perkins, the association's chairman, said

big starting salaries offered in recent years had proved "counterproductive and inflationary" and forecast that the average starting pay offered to graduates in 1990 would be £11,000.

That figure represents a 6.5 per cent increase on the £10,327 average last year which was itself an 11 per cent rise on 1988.

The association predicted that while the number of graduates would grow by 2.5 per cent to 127,000 this year the number of graduates sought by industry and commerce would rise by only three per cent overall.

If the impact of high interest rates was worse than expected, growth in demand could be as little as 1 per cent, leading to problems for many graduates seeking work this summer.

The changed fortunes for Britain's graduates come after a year in which graduate salaries in the construction

industry rose by 24 per cent and those in the legal profession were up 16 per cent.

Average starting salaries paid to graduates in administrative and personnel jobs were under £10,000 while the highest went to those embarking on careers in computing, science, engineering and research.

Miss Perkins said that last year there were 20 times as many applicants for personnel and administration posts as there were for jobs in the higher-paid high technology areas of employment.

The association's half-yearly study also looked at the salaries paid to graduates as they were promoted.

It found that within one year two thirds of graduates were earning up to £12,000 and within three years a third were earning £14,000.

Despite the predicted drop in demand, Mrs Perkins said students graduating with good

degrees this summer would still be in demand. She said that students would be unwise to delay choosing jobs.

The trend towards leaving a career decision to the last minute would be reversed and it was important for final-year students to make decisions about their futures before the Easter break, she said.

Last year more than half of the companies seeking graduate staff were unable to recruit all they wanted and almost a sixth of all graduate vacancies were unfilled at the end of the year.

However, Miss Perkins said many companies had been "panicked" by predictions of a sharp drop in the number of teenagers in the 1990s.

As a result they had "elevated jobs to graduate status" without thinking about the consequences.

She said: "Graduates have been over-recruited and under-employed."

Economic and Monetary Union

Hurd urges EC to consider East bloc

By Andrew McKewen and Michael Kalpe

The European Community should consider the possible effects on the new East European democracies before entering into Economic and Monetary Union, Mr Douglas Hurd said yesterday.

The Foreign Secretary strongly linked the two questions and implied that the stability of a new, wider Europe could be affected.

"In debating the future development of the Community, we must keep in mind the overall European interest, including the interests of the newest European democracies," he told a meeting in London of members of the European Parliament and the United States House of Representatives.

Mr Hurd said the Community should make three main efforts this year — aid to Eastern Europe, progress towards the 1992 internal market, and a "practical and substantial" debate on EMU, which he described as "a longer term goal".

His speech showed that Britain has not dropped the arguments which it deployed unsuccessfully at the Euro-

pean Community summit in Strasbourg last month. It was unable to persuade the other countries to delay calling an inter-governmental conference on EMU in 1990, but still hopes to water down the proposals at the conference.

It has submitted proposals countering those prepared last year by a committee headed by M Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission.

Mr Hurd said that EMU should be operated "in a way which is compatible with national traditions". Britain was the only country to have put forward its own ideas.

On Nato, Mr Hurd supported recent proposals by Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, that the alliance should take on an increased political role as the military threat from the Soviet Union declines.

Mr Hurd said that it would be easy to forget the past aggression of the Soviet Union and its satellites. They had attempted to undermine the values of freedom and foster a failed system of socialism on the rest of the world.

"Against the rapid and radical change of the last few months, we now have to assess the changing role of institutions which were established in a different day and a different climate." The United States stake in Europe would remain crucial, he added.

Leading article, page 13



Mr Douglas Hurd: "Keep in mind the overall interest."

Funding change fuels research fears

By Pearce Wright Science Editor

Medical charities fear that changes proposed by the Government yesterday will lead to a large increase in the cost of the research they sponsor in universities and hospitals. The anxiety stems from recommendations announced by Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, intended to streamline the organization of government-funded research in universities, which costs about £1 billion a year.

According to the Association of Medical Research Charities, one side-effect could be higher charges for work supported by its members, and a consequent reduction in research.

The recommendations come in a consultative document that calls for changes to the long-standing system of dual support for scientific research.

Under this system, research projects are funded from two sources. Universities provide the overheads from the

annual block grant which they receive from the Universities Funding Council. This pays for salaries, equipment and buildings, and amounts to support of more than £670 million a year for science. Secondly, five research councils allocate more than £250 million a year in award grants for specific projects and the salaries of new, young researchers.

The plan is to transfer the cost of some overheads from the funding council's block grant to the research councils, so as to avoid disputes about who should pay for what. Mr MacGregor said: "The consultative paper proposes a new, clearer definition of the boundary. We propose that from the academic year 1991-92, universities and other institutions would continue to pay the salaries of academic staff contributing to Research Council projects and to provide premises free of charge."

"All other costs of these projects would be met by the research councils through their grants. The change in

responsibility would be reflected in the amount of grant which the Research Councils and the institutions receive from central government."

The medical charities fear that universities will attempt to recover the money they lose to the research councils by increasing the overheads they put on research that is funded independently of such as sponsored by the charities.

The charities spend more than £100 million a year in this way.

● In an attempt to rejuvenate the flagging Midlands textile industry, Leicester Polytechnic is to set up a £7.6 million "automated knitwear research centre" and factory, where new knitting techniques will be tested.

Twenty-two companies and four universities as well as the Department of Trade and Industry will contribute to the three-year programme, which is designed to develop ways of reducing the market lead of Far Eastern countries in the textile industry.

M25 fog detectors 'were not ready'

By Ruth Gledhill

Fog detectors which might have helped prevent the 45-vehicle M25 pile-up near Slough, Berkshire, were not installed because of technical problems, it was disclosed yesterday.

As a coroner opened inquests into the deaths of the five killed, including three members of one family, the Department of Transport disclosed that 18 months ago a report identified the place where the accident occurred as "fog-prone".

The installation of two fog detectors that might have helped prevent the multiple collision, in which 12 were also injured, was delayed because of computer software problems. The installation of a further 52 detectors in more than 30 other fog spots was also delayed.

The Department of Transport said yesterday that the detectors should have been operating by the beginning of this winter. It was unlikely that they would be ready before April or May.

The British Road Federation said

driver error was often to blame for accidents in fog. "But people deserve to be warned. It is a shame the system had not been introduced earlier."

Mr John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, called for a big investment in high-technology equipment to bring the increasing traffic using the motorway under tighter speed controls.

Pharos Marine, of Brentford, west London, manufacturer of the fog detectors, refused to comment.

The three members of one family killed in the accident at 10.15pm on Monday were Mr Roger Bean, aged 45, his wife, Irene, aged 46, and their daughter, Sarah, aged 22, all of Calverton Road, Stony Stratford, near Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

Miss Bean's boy friend, Mr Darren Coldridge, was seriously injured. The couple, who had planned to marry, had been on a new year holiday in Berlin.

Mr Bean, a director of Fred Cox Metals, scrap merchants, of Milton Keynes, and his wife had driven to meet

them at Heathrow airport and were going home when their car was involved in the crash in dense fog. Their car was crushed by a coach. Other cars, lorries and vans ploughed into the wreckage.

The other two who died were Mr Harpal Saroya, aged 32, of the Bronx, New York City, and Mr Ousden Minhas, aged 52, of Cricket Close, Walsall, Birmingham. Two people in the car with them, Harjit and Hardip Minhas, were injured.

The M25, in spite of its problems, lies ninth in the motorway accident table. The M1, M2, M3, M4, M11, M23, M53 and M74 all have higher accident rates.

The latest available figures show there were 21 deaths from 685 accidents on the M25 in 1987; it is not known how many occurred in fog.

Twenty three children from a middle school in Polesworth, Warwickshire, were taken to hospital in Tamworth, Staffordshire, last night after windows in their coach were broken by metal rods on a lorry. Three had eye injuries.

Christmas book sales prompt new call to end price-fixing

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

The leader of the campaign to abolish the Net Book Agreement, which fixes prices, yesterday claimed a breakthrough after a dramatic increase in sales of reduced-price titles over Christmas.

Mr Terry Maher, chairman of Penguin, which owns 48 Dillons bookshops, has been a persistent critic of the agreement, which allows publishers to set minimum prices for most books. In November he flouted the spirit of the agreement by cutting the price of eight popular titles.

Although the books were among the small percentage not covered by the net book restrictions, his move was the

latest attempt to undermine the 27-year agreement.

Dillons' results for December showed a 35 per cent increase in total book sales on the previous year. But, more significantly, sales of the eight titles included in the promotion increased fivefold.

"Sales of the eight discounted titles represented 2 per cent of Dillons' total turnover in December. This is a remarkable figure given that the average Dillons bookstore stocks 60,000 titles in all," the company said yesterday.

All eight titles were among Dillons' top 50 Christmas sellers — while only two of the eight appeared in the top 50

for the trade as a whole. Mr Maher said: "The book trade's pessimists have once again been proved wrong. Promoted price reductions work — for books, as it does in all other areas of retailing. The NBA is an obstacle to the book trade's success." He is planning further initiatives to make the agreement a "dead letter".

"More publishers (as many already do) should now recognize their common interest with Dillons in achieving this aim. The book-buying public has had the experience this Christmas of purchasing new titles at discounted prices for the first time ever — and without doubt, they liked it."

The Bill is promoted by the Isle of Wight County Council and supported by Mr Field. Although he tabled an amendment to a motion objecting to other bills, he was only seeking to get all the Bills from the last session revived, which has now happened.

The restaurant One Sixteen, Knightsbridge, has not closed as stated in Jonathan Meades' "Eating Out" article on January 6. It reopened on January 3 after a Christmas and New Year break.

Reading The Times overseas: Australia \$12; Belgium 10; Canada 10; Denmark 10; France 10; Germany 10; Greece 10; Hong Kong 10; India 10; Italy 10; Japan 10; Korea 10; Luxembourg 10; Malaysia 10; Mexico 10; New Zealand 10; Norway 10; Pakistan 10; Portugal 10; Singapore 10; South Africa 10; Spain 10; Sweden 10; Switzerland 10; Taiwan 10; Thailand 10; USA 10.

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Tea in Gadaffi's tent and sympathy for the Soviet invaders

By Kerry Gill

The antics of Ron Brown, whether fuelled by alcohol, passion or concern over Britain's foreign policy, have stirred the media almost since his election as Labour MP for Leith in 1979.

However, his behaviour - including taking tea in a Bedouin tent with Colonel Gadaffi of Libya, visiting Afghanistan at the height of the Soviet occupation, dropping the House of Commons mace and, allegedly, being involved in extra-parliamentary activities with a woman in a Commons shower room - has been more of an embarrassment to his Labour colleagues than any serious threat to Mrs Margaret Thatcher. Not that he has not done his best to wrest Scotland from the perceived yoke of Thatcherist policies. In 1982, Brown gingered up a rather lacklustre visit to Glasgow by the Prime Minister.

As Mrs Thatcher made towards the doors of the Holiday Inn, Brown lunged forward, shouting: "You're not welcome here" and "Is this Poland?". The Government survived, but Brown was collared and fined £50 for a breach of the peace.

His unpredictability began to achieve public notoriety by 1981 when he sorely tried his Labour colleagues and rattled the Government by travelling to Afghanistan. There, he gave his backing to the communist regime, even posing for photographs beside a Soviet tank. Later that year, Brown was suspended from the House of Commons after calling the Solicitor General for Scotland, then Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, a liar. Three months later, he was expelled again after holding up a banner saying "Hands off Lothian". The Labour chief whip co-operated with the Speaker by locking the Leith MP in a room in preparation for his being escorted out.

By 1984, Brown had established what was to be a continuing rapport with Colonel Gadaffi. Claims that he was acting to secure the release of imprisoned Britons were marred by the fact that his visit took place just months after Woman Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher was shot from a window of the Libyan People's Bureau in London.

Two years ago, he achieved national notoriety in the celebrated mace incident. Brown took hold of the mace during a late night debate on social security benefits, but dropped it. Some MPs suspected that Brown might have been drunk but he said: "I'd only had a pint of Younger's Tartan. The bloody thing was heavier than I expected."

Brown has not offered a satisfactory answer to why he suddenly grabbed the mace. After a combined vote by both the Tories and his Labour colleagues, he was suspended from the Commons for 20 days. Infuriated by his refusal to apologize, Labour MPs withdrew the party whip. He also had to pay the £1,000 repair bill. By now his future tenure of Leith was beginning to look shaky. His constituency Labour Party told him it expected better behaviour. Brown emerged to say: "The people of Leith are still behind me."

He was, and probably still is, right. His majority has risen from 3,000 in 1979 to a seemingly unassailable 11,327 now. Reports of a haemorrhage of support over the past two years have proved unfounded and, last October, he comfortably survived the reselection process.

Notably, if surprisingly, his wife May has stood by him. At critical points during his bizarre career, Brown has disappeared on some obscure foreign mission. Just before his reselection meeting Brown, instead of lobbying for support within the constituency, was off in Moscow with the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee involved in negotiations concerning the Middle East.

Many say that it is Mrs Brown who holds his seat together while he conducts Leith constituency foreign policy whether in Colonel Gadaffi's tent or Albania.

After a notorious 10 years in the Commons, it is unlikely that his constituents will turn against him for what was nothing more than another spicy episode in the career of Ron Brown.

MP claims a moral victory as he is cleared of stealing

By David Sapsted

Mr Edward Rees, Brown's counsel, said in mitigation that the MP was involved in negotiations to secure the release of British hostages held in the Lebanon, including Mr Terry Waite and Mr John McCarthy, the journalist.

Any sentence, he said, "may well have consequences that go beyond this courtroom." Brown said that he was "quietly confident" that hostages would be released this year but declined to discuss what contacts he had with the Middle East.

He also expressed confidence that the verdict on the "domestic" charge of criminal damage would not affect his political career or his standing with his constituents. "The more serious charge was not proven and that's very important for me politically."

"I don't think people in Leith will bother too much about the criminal damage," he said. "I don't think I will get a front bench job but I wasn't in line for one anyway."

Under the 1981 Representation of the People Act the election of an MP is only declared void if he is found guilty of a criminal offence and detained for more than a year in prison. Brown said that MPs were "vulnerable" to cases such as this which were "cobbled together by two individuals," namely Mrs Longden and Mr Redmond.

Despite the disclosures of his lengthy affair during the trial, his wife May said: "She (Mrs Longden) was trying to break up our marriage but, after 27 years, it takes a lot to break up a marriage."

During the trial, Brown, who had pleaded not guilty to both the theft and criminal damage charges, was said to have gone to Mrs Longden's flat in Charles Road, St Leonards, on April 25, the worse for drink. The prosecution said he had appealed to Mrs Longden to renew their three-year relationship which had ended the month before. When she had refused and then left with Mr Redmond to give the MP time to "sleep it off," he went about the flat smashing virtually everything of glass.

Police who were called to the flat had written saying "love you, but it will never happen again" and also a smashed mirror on which the word "love" had been written.

Brown did not give evidence before the jury but his defence maintained throughout that it was Mr Redmond who had been angered by the MP's presence in the flat, had lost his temper and had then smashed the mirrors as he angrily pursued the MP around the woman's home.

Brown said he believed the police thought "I was a mixture of Jesse James and Rob Roy."

He added: "My regret is going to a certain flat alone - I should have taken someone with me. I will never make that mistake again."

"It has been a dreadful period for the last nine months. At times, emotionally, I have been at a very low ebb."

Mr Rees claimed the MP had visited Mrs Longden to recover "politically-sensitive" tapes, documents and keys to his Westminster office. Mrs Longden, aged 39, denied any knowledge of the existence of the tapes and also of trying to obtain up to £20,000 from the MP as a "settlement" for ending the affair.

Mr Rees said Brown's only source of income was his £24,000 salary as an MP and Judge Gower granted six months for the fine, compensation and costs to be paid.

Mr Rees said Brown faced the prospect of having to remortgage his home in Scotland.

Changing face of communism



Miss Nina Temple celebrating with her children, Rebecca, 11, and Oliver, 10, after the announcement that she will be appointed as general secretary of the Communist Party of Britain. Miss Temple, aged 33, left, aged three, and Oliver, aged one, yesterday after the announcement that she will be appointed as general secretary of the Communist Party of Britain (Nigel Williams writes).

Prize cash to help buy family car

Four winners shared yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize.

Mrs Catherine Pollard, a school secretary and housewife, of Crawley, West Sussex, struck lucky when checking the numbers on behalf of her husband.

"He had to leave early for a business meeting and asked me to do the competition for him so, in all fairness, I ought to hand the money over," she said. "But he will probably put it towards a new car which all the family will use anyway."

Mrs Valda Corney, of Dollar, Central Region, was another chance winner. "I do the competition very irregularly," she admitted.

The other winners were Mrs Rosemary Arndell, of Aylescott, Oxfordshire, and Mr Arthur Nixon, of Fleetville, near St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Sentencing plans 'may be foiled'

By Quentin Cowdry
Home Affairs Correspondent

An independent report has given a warning that the Government's radical plans to reform sentencing policy could be foiled by resistance from the probation service.

The £125,000 study, commissioned to the embarrassment of ministers, by the Home Office, says that Britain's 7,000 probation officers see themselves primarily as social workers, representing the interests of offenders as much as the courts and public.

That conclusion, in the study's final draft which the Home Office received a few weeks ago, implicitly challenges the Government's belief that it can cut the jail population by introducing tough non-custodial sentences for less serious offenders.

Ministers accept that for the strategy to succeed probation officers, whose job includes recommending and supervising non-custodial sentences, must become far more punishment orientated.

However, Professor Martin Davies of the University of East Anglia, which conducted the research, said yesterday that the probation service would have to change beyond all recognition.

"Officers will probably, on the face of it, go along with what the Home Office wants but if the courts don't see a radical shift in approach they simply will not use the new sentences."

The professor, a former probation officer and Home Office sociologist, said the issue was vital as parole changes to be outlined in a new Criminal Justice White Paper to be published soon would increase the jail population.

"The service is very conscious of the dilemma it faces: it wants, as much as anyone else, a smaller prison population but it can't bring itself to act as a punishment agent," he said.

The research, which says that probation training has drifted far away from its original focus on the penal system, was based on interviews with 1,200 officers.

Housing market Estate agents see signs of recovery

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The first signs of a recovery in the depressed property market are reported by Bernard Marcus, the estate agents, in a quarterly review of home prices published yesterday.

The company says that its review, covering the last three months of 1989, indicates a gradual return of confidence and of first-time buyers to the market, which had seen sales prices fall by an average of 20 per cent over 12 months.

By the end of the year, with much of London property selling at prices similar to those of 1987, the volume of activity finally began to increase.

At the beginning of October, the percentage of first-time buyers among newly-registered applicants at the company's offices was 10 per cent, but by the end of the year, the figure was 33 per cent.

"Nobody is claiming a 'miracle cure' for the property market - merely that after a prolonged period of weakness, the market is responding to treatment and is finally beginning to show signs of recovery," the report said.

Bernard Marcus, which has 75 offices in the London area, said 1989 would be remembered as the year in which the worst predictions of the market analysts and merchant bankers became a reality.

It began with the market in a state of near-stagnation, with very few first-time buyers. This led to a proliferation of "chains".

"However, by the last quarter of the year, a combination of realistic pricing, the introduction of more imaginative mortgage schemes and the gradual return of confidence in general was slowly bringing these same buyers back into the market. The new decade now begins with a clear and encouraging upturn in the number of first-time buyers registering with our sales offices."

Annual house price inflation nationwide fell below three per cent in December 1989, against more than 34 per cent a year ago, according to a house-price survey published yesterday by the Halifax Building Society. It shows that house prices in Britain have been falling for five months and are now more than three per cent below their peak in July.

Prices are continuing to fall throughout the South and Midlands, with only small increases elsewhere, but the price falls have generated stronger demand for mortgages in the South, mainly because there is now a buyers' market there.

House prices are now 16.3 per cent below their level a year ago in East Anglia and around 10 per cent down elsewhere in the South. Prices paid by first-time buyers are, however, nine per cent higher than a year ago, and the average price for a first-time buyer is now more than £52,400.

The price of new houses was virtually unchanged in December, at one per cent above the level a year ago.

The Halifax says that the ratio of house prices to average earnings has fallen to 4.7 from its peak of about five. "Some further falls in house prices in 1990, and 9-10 per cent earnings growth could bring this ratio down to below four per cent by the end of the year. This will make houses more 'affordable' once more, and sets the scene for a firm recovery in house prices in 1991, led once more by London and the South-east."

Hospital director posed as potential donor

By John Young

A hospital director described yesterday how he posed as a potential kidney donor, using a false name, when he answered an advertisement in an Egyptian newspaper.

The advertisement, in Arabic, was headed "Urgent call for those with merciful hearts". It invited calls from donors with blood groups A or O and offered £10,000 plus expenses.

Mr Amine Saliba told the professional conduct committee of the General Medical Council that the advertisement contained the names and telephone numbers of two doctors. One was Dr Raymond Crockett, who was responsible for several patients at what was then the MCI Hospital in Ealing, west London.

The committee is hearing charges of serious professional misconduct against Dr Crockett, a Harley Street kidney specialist; Mr Michael Bewick, a transplant surgeon; and Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist, who are alleged to have been involved in the sale of kidneys for transplant. All three deny the charges.

Mr Saliba said he was "very surprised" to see the advertisements in the *Al-Ahram* newspaper. He telephoned Dr Crockett's number and spoke to a woman he assumed to be his secretary.

He gave his name as Ali Ahmed and said he came from Egypt. He said he was willing to donate his kidney but he had a few questions to ask.

"Is it 10,000 Egyptian pounds or English pounds you are paying?" he asked. "It's £10,000 sterling," was the reply.

"Is it dangerous for my life if I donate a kidney?" The answer was no.

"Can I see a doctor to discuss it with him?" he asked. The answer was yes and that he could make an appointment with Dr Crockett. Mr Saliba said he was told his kidney would go to a patient from Oman.

"I asked her where the operation was going to take place. 'Is it a good hospital?' She said, 'Yes it is a good hospital, the Wellington Hospital'."

Mr Saliba said that he saw Dr Crockett either the next day or the day after. He told him he had seen the advertisement and was very upset.

"He replied 'It is not your patient and none of your business'."

Mr Saliba said that during 1987 there had been a rapid increase in the number of patients sent by the Turkish Embassy through Dr Crockett, from about two to something like 30 a year. All were sent for kidney transplant and dialysis.

Dr Crockett had been responsible for assessing the patients. During the transplant operations Mr Bewick was the leader of the team of surgeons and afterwards Dr Crockett resumed responsibility. The hospital would send the bill to the embassy and would also arrange to collect the fees on behalf of the doctors involved.

Cross-questioned by Mr Anthony Arledge, QC, for Dr Crockett, Mr Saliba said that a few months after his confrontation with Dr Crockett most of the Turkish patients were transferred to the National Kidney Centre in north London.

Mr Saliba denied being annoyed by the removal of the patients from the hospital, which at that time was in financial difficulties and was subsequently bought by a German group and renamed the Hillside Hospital.

He said the hospital was then mainly catering for open heart surgery and had a number of patients on its waiting list, mostly from Scandinavia.

The hearing continues today.

Kidneys for sale hearing



Mr Amine Saliba: Worried by newspaper advertisement.

Parents to confront tobacco industry

By Jill Sherman
Social Services Correspondent

More than 100 famous parents yesterday launched a one-year campaign to prevent children from smoking by "building a blockade" between them and the tobacco industry.

The new organization, Parents Against Tobacco, has the Duke of Gloucester as its president. Members include Mr Richard Branson, the international businessman, Miss Hayley Mills the actress, and Sir George Young, a former junior health minister.

Parents Against Tobacco aims to stop illegal sales of cigarettes and curb the growth of the industry. The group's chairman, he said, until now, too much of the debate had been between smokers and non-smokers. "We now intend to channel our energies into confronting the tobacco industry directly. Our aim is to cut the industry off from its future by building a blockade between it and our children."

Local Parents-Against-Tobacco groups would be set up all over the country. They would publicize local retailers who ignored the law, he said. Consumer boycotts would be organized if they persisted in breaking the law.

The campaign is backed by 150 MPs from all parties. If the Government failed to act by the autumn they would support a private member's Bill pressing for tougher measures including a ban on promotional material in shop fronts.

One in five children aged 15 smoke regularly and about 300,000 children aged 11 to 15 are regular smokers. The celebrities yesterday urged the Government to make it mandatory for local authorities to survey shops and to prosecute those selling tobacco to children.

MEP underlines role of tourism industry

By Shona Crawford Poole, Travel Editor

Tourism now employs 101 million people - one in 16 of the world's workers - and it is so important that every European country needs a full-time tourism minister, Mr Edward McMillan-Scott, a Conservative spokesman on tourism, said yesterday.

Mr McMillan-Scott, MEP for York and Tory spokesman on tourism in the European Parliament, told the "Wales Marches into Europe" conference in Llandrindod Wells that tourism had become the world's largest industry.

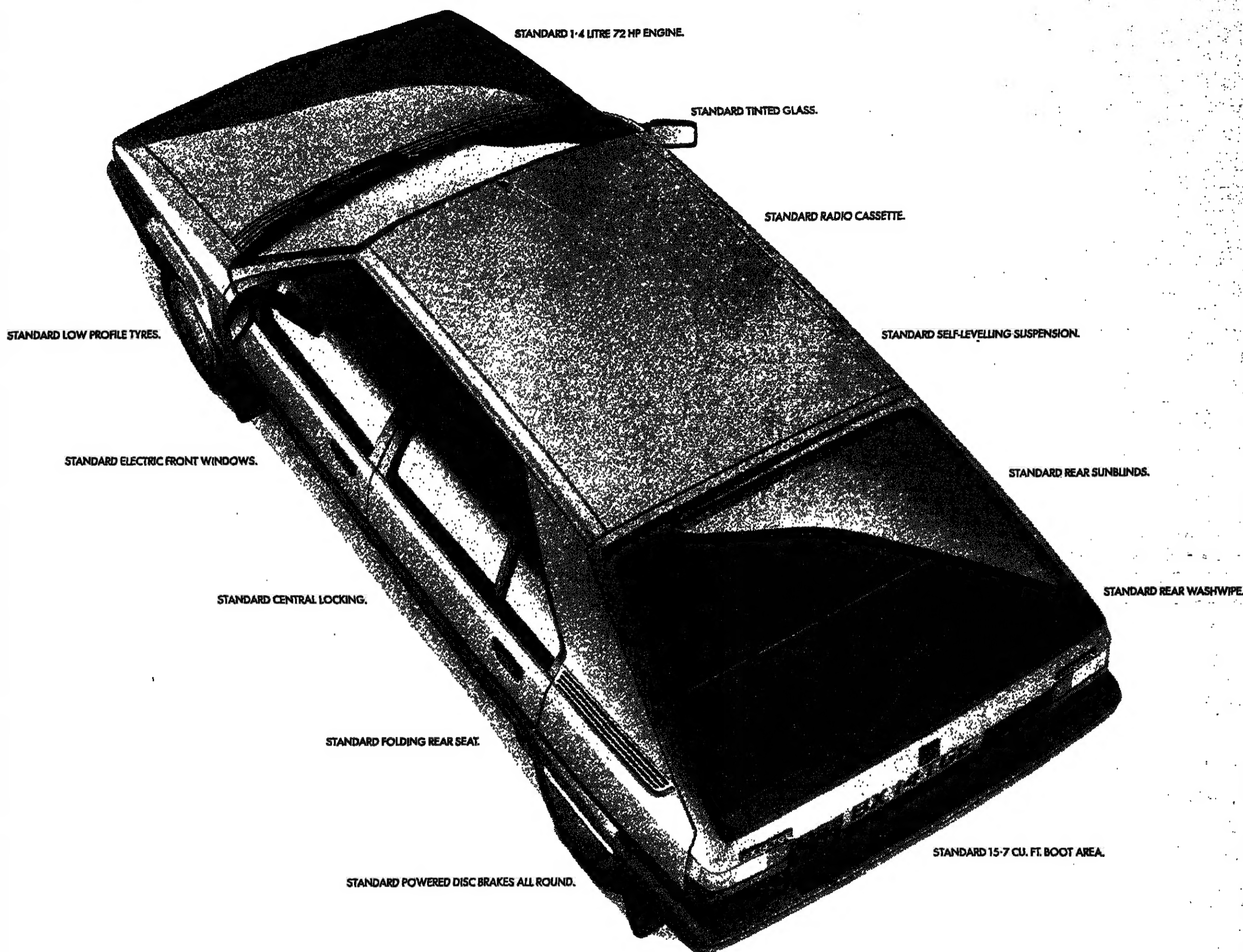
More than seven million American visitors to Europe last year boosted overseas visitor totals to record levels, but it was not clear yet whether the decline in Europe's share of world tourism had been halted, he said.

"Travel and tourism employment, investment, output and added value exceed those of the traditional industries in virtually every country, and in the developed countries, consumers spend as much on travel and tourism as on clothing or health care."

Mr McMillan-Scott is the architect of European Tourism Year, which will be opened in Dublin this month.

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Charity says health service ignores needs of infertile couples

By Jill Sherman
Social Services Correspondent

The needs of over one million infertile men and women are being ignored by the National Health Service, the self-help group Child said yesterday.

About one in six couples has infertility problems and an estimated 100,000 people are waiting for specialist treatment at the country's 37 health service and private centres, the charity says. One hospital has a seven-year waiting list and many couples have to wait at least three years for

specialist treatment from when they first visit their GP.

Some couples are given inappropriate or delayed treatment, because GPs refer them to local district hospitals which do not have specialist facilities, according to the group. Mrs Sarah Biggs, Child vice-chairman, said tests for fertility were often done at the wrong time by some hospitals resulting in some inappropriate treatment.

"If the money wasted investigating couples inadequately in district hospitals were to be directed towards regional centres,

most regions would be able to provide a service whereby patients are diagnosed accurately and quickly, leading to more efficient and cost-effective treatment," she said.

Launching a campaign for better facilities for the infertile, Mrs Biggs called for the creation of regional centres of excellence in reproductive medicine. "We would like to see one within 50 miles of most people," she said.

In many cases couples also have to contribute towards the treatment even if it is supposedly on the health service. Only two of the

health service centres, at Newham general hospital, east London, and St Mary's hospital, Manchester, are fully funded by the health service. Elsewhere, couples often have to pay £500 to £1,500 plus £1,000 for fertility drugs. Private treatment may cost £2,500 plus the drugs bill.

Mrs Biggs pointed out that under the health service reforms infertile couples are more likely to have to pay drugs bill because GPs may decide they cannot afford to prescribe them.

Mr David Bromham, a gynaecologist at St James's Hospital,

Leeds, said the health service "does very little for those whose reproductive system is not working as it should be. It is there to provide for those with ill-health, and infertility is an illness".

Guidelines to protect patients involved in medical research are necessary because of an "explosion" of scientific knowledge in the past few years, the Royal College of Physicians said yesterday (Thomson Prentice writes).

The safety of patients must be the overriding concern of doctors

in the face of complex ethical problems such as those produced by embryo research, genetic engineering and the development of new drugs, the college said.

Revised and updated guidelines for researchers were published in two reports by the college yesterday. They emphasize the need for patients to be fully informed of the implications of research in which they are asked to take part, and their rights to refuse.

Only in exceptional circumstances can there be an argument for not telling patients taking part

in trials of a new treatment that it might prove to be better or worse than established therapies, the guidelines say. Examples would be when it would cause more distress to reveal the nature of the investigation, or where the patient cannot understand.

Guidelines on the Practice of Ethics Committees in Medical Research Involving Human Subjects and Research Involving Patients. (The Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE. £8 each, £14 if purchased together).

Tory council defies MacGregor over school-running cost

By David Tytler, Education Editor

A Conservative council is to defy the Government and run its own scheme to finance schools. It claims it will be unable to teach the National Curriculum if it accepts the Government's ruling on school budgets.

The Government has been criticized for insisting that school budgets should be set on average costs across the local authority area and not actual school-by-school costs when schools run their own affairs under the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Dr David Muffett, chairman of Hereford and Worcester education committee, said yesterday: "This is nonsense. The law requires us to deliver the National Curriculum but we will not be able to do it the Government's way."

Hereford and Worcester submitted a scheme which would have funded schools on actual costs but it was rejected by Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science. He has asked the council to think again.

Dr Muffett said that the council will not be revising its plans but will proceed with its rejected scheme from April next year. He said that the council is not required to introduce a government-approved scheme until 1993.

The Department of Education and Science said last night that schemes would be phased in across the country from this April. The Govern-

ment expected an approved scheme to be introduced in Hereford and Worcester by April 1991. "We would hope this can be done by negotiation but the Government does have the right ultimately to impose its own scheme."

Dr Muffett said his scheme included a "balancing clause" which allowed funds to be transferred to a school if it was failing to deliver the National Curriculum.

He said: "This could be because it could not afford to pay experienced teachers but there is a Baker's dozen of reasons why a school may need extra help. This cannot be done on a formula basis. If a school needs an extra £2,000 to put something right it is quite ridiculous to give £2,000 to our other 394 schools."

Dr Muffett said that the Government's scheme would deprive some schools "of many thousands of pounds worth of provision, while others will enjoy equally massive excesses of provision".

He added: "If after all our efforts we are then uncompromisingly ordered by the Secretary of State to take a course of action which, by that time I am convinced we shall have demonstrated conclusively is unwarrantable and ill-advised, we shall at least know that we did our best."

At its meeting this week the county education committee unanimously approved the rebel plan which will be

considered at next month's full meeting of the council. University law schools are dismayed over proposals floated by Lord Chilver, chairman of the Universities Funding Council, that law courses should be entirely paid for by fee income from students, with no input from public funds (Frances Gibb writes).

In the face of the expected growth in student numbers, Lord Chilver had said that there were some courses, such as law, which is relatively cheap to run, which might be expected to pay for themselves entirely from fee income.

Such a move would mean that law students would have to pay the annual cost of courses themselves, about £2,200 a year, unless they could get loans or funding from big firms of solicitors.

Professor Graham Zellick, chairman of the committee of heads of Universities' Law Schools, said: "The practising profession and the academic community is alarmed in the extreme at this idea. The consequences of such a proposal would be absolutely catastrophic."

The academic discipline of law would wither as there "would be no-one to teach law and no one trained to teach law." He plans to raise the issue with Sir Peter Swinerton-Dyer, chief executive of the Universities' Funding Council.

Fledgling falconry firm flies high



Mr Simon Crook, who is receiving an Enterprise Allowance grant of £40 a week to launch a company making and supplying falconry equipment, flying his buzzard near his home in Smardland, Tynes and Wear. Mr Crook, aged 21, who also owns two kestrels, started the

business after reviving a schoolboy interest in birds of prey. However, demand for his hand-made products is so great that he is soon to move from his semi-detached council house to a farm near the town. The move should also allow him to begin breeding birds. His

range of supplies includes gloves and perches and bird hoods which take up to six hours to make. "I was happy to be off the dole, doing something I loved," he said. "But it's a real bonus to have so much work coming in. Falconry seems to be enjoying a revival at the moment."

Body find leads to check on 6,000 boys

By Ronald Faux

Police in Cumbria yesterday began an operation to ensure that every boy in the county aged between one and three is alive.

The investigation will involve checking records of more than 6,000 children after the discovery of the badly burned and mutilated body of a boy dumped among domestic refuse on a council tip at Millom on December 1.

Every child in the Millom and Haverigg area of Cumbria has now been accounted for and police are widening the investigation, with 50 officers and the Home Office Large Major Inquiry System checking all available records to solve what is becoming a full murder inquiry with many puzzling facets.

Det Chief Inspector David Dawes, who is leading the investigation, said it was a case with no clues and no leads so far as to who the infant might be.

"The astonishing thing is we have had no reports of a missing child, no distressed parents or guardian of a child and we have ruled out all the sightings, nearly 100 of them, of anyone seen near the refuse tip on the evening before the body was found."

"Someone looked after him and fed him and someone other than the parents or guardian must have noticed that this toddler was no longer around."

Mrs Denise Cloude, Mayor of Millom, said: "I'm sure police were convinced it was a local child but now the search is being widened this is obviously less likely."

"I always doubted it could have been a local. This is a very close community where people take an interest in their neighbours. Someone would have noticed a toddler was missing. It is horrific and I think people have tried to put it to the back of their minds."

Forensic tests have shown that the boy was already dead when his body was abandoned on the refuse tip on the outskirts of the town, two miles from the nearest house.

Mr Mike Gilbert, a council worker found the body among newly dumped rubble on December 1. He believes the child had been left the previous night.

Other theories were that the toddler might have died in an accident after which the parents panicked and abandoned the body. Chief Inspector Dawes said: "If that is the case we appeal to them to come forward and clear up this mystery. It will be extremely sad if this baby boy simply ended up as an unknown in a common grave."

Remand on charge of murder

Michael Kyte, aged 48, was yesterday accused at Westminster magistrates' court, Wiltshire of murdering Miss Ruth Stevens, the missing bride-to-be whose blood-stained car was found abandoned in a London housing estate just before Christmas.

Mr Kyte, of Gloucester Walk, Westbury, is charged with murdering Miss Stevens, aged 33, who also lived in Westbury, between December 11 and January 9.

He was remanded in custody to appear before Trowbridge magistrates on February 8. There was no application for bail and reporting restrictions were not lifted.

In memory

A garden of remembrance is to be laid at the spot where an IRA bomb killed 11 Royal Marine bandmen in Deal, Kent, last September.

RAC apology

The Royal Automobile Club has apologized to thousands of motorists who, instead of receiving renewal notices, were told their membership had lapsed.

Student dies

Mr Stefan Dobinson, a politics student from Cleveland, fell to his death from a tower block at Lancaster University.

Drug overdose

Two staff have been suspended at Torbay hospital, south Devon, after a four-week-old baby was said to have been given an overdose of morphine when recovering from an operation.

Water charges

Three charges against South West Water, resulting from an incident when 20 tons of aluminium sulphate polluted drinking water, were adjourned until February 27 by magistrates at Bodmin, Cornwall, yesterday.

Arcade guide

Mr Robert Davis, a councillor in Westminster and chairman of an amusement arcade action group, has written a guide to how councils can regulate and control arcades and amusement centres.

Three killed

Three men died yesterday after their Ford Sierra hit a tree in Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire, and broke in two.

Britten jazz concerto

Gala for Goodman clarinet movement

The world premiere of a movement from a clarinet concerto by Benjamin Britten, intended for Benny Goodman, the jazz musician, will be performed at a gala concert attended by the Queen.

Britten wrote sketches for the eight-minute piece when he was living in the United States at the start of the Second World War. However, when he returned to Britain, all his manuscripts were confiscated by US customs officials who thought he might be a spy writing in code.

When they were returned, the initial enthusiasm for the piece had passed and he was busy on "Peter Grimes", one of his most celebrated works. The sketches were put aside and have been in a drawer at the Red House ever since, a spokesman for the Aldeburgh Foundation said. The Red House was Lord Britten's

home at Aldeburgh, Suffolk. The sketches have been orchestrated by Colin Matthews, a composer who worked with Lord Britten and is a trustee of the Britten-Pears Foundation, which manages the estate.

Michael Collins, the clarinetist, will perform the Goodman role with Tamara Vassary conducting the Britten-Pears Orchestra at the concert at the Barbican, City of London, on March 7.

The Queen will be accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh. The aim is to raise the final £70,000 towards the £1 million Aldeburgh Appeal to safeguard Snape Maltings concert hall and the Britten-Pears School for Advanced Musical Studies.

Mstislav Rostropovich, the cellist, Ileana Cotrubas, soprano, Anthony Rolfe Johnson, tenor, and Richard Watkins, horn, will also appear.



Lord Britten: initial enthusiasm for score faded.



Benny Goodman: concerto written for the clarinetist.

Operators try to head off total ban

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Airlines fear the safety of long-range jets may be jeopardized by the trend towards a ban on smoking on inter-continental flights, if it leads to "furtive" smoking in toilets or other dangerous areas.

They are now mounting a campaign to persuade governments not to follow the lead of Canada, which surprised the aviation world by announcing a comprehensive smoking ban on all flights on Canadian-registered aircraft.

Many nations and airlines operate a smoking ban on short-haul services, but they have resisted an outright ban because, they say, surreptitious smoking would increase the risk of fires.

The Canadian government originally announced that its ban would take effect from the

end of last year, but after representations from Canadian Airlines, it delayed the introduction until July.

Canadian Airlines, which also owns the booming Wardair company, calculates that, if the ban were applied to the route to Japan, which traditionally carries the greatest proportion of smokers, it could lose 12 per cent of its revenue as passengers switched to rival airlines.

Other airlines fear the Canadian move could be followed by other governments and are anxious to put their case before they are caught in what they are convinced would be unwelcome legislation.

British Airways, which already bans smoking on domestic shuttle flights, says it takes passenger preferences

into account. "On some flights, especially within Europe, we have large no smoking areas, but we keep the situation under constant review and react to the wishes of our customers at all times."

Northern businessmen are increasingly choosing Air France rather than British Airways when they need to get to New York, because it is faster and costs £1,000 less.

They can fly from Manchester to Paris Charles De Gaulle airport to Paris via Heathrow, New York, pay £1,318 less for the return trip than from Heathrow, and still arrive an hour earlier.

Typically, a passenger would leave Manchester at 7.30am to fly to Paris on an Air France subsonic jet, transfer to Concorde and arrive in

New York at 8.45am the same day. If he went via Heathrow, he could leave an hour later and catch the British Airways Concorde leaving at 10.30am, but he would arrive an hour later than if he had transferred at Paris. He would pay £4,256 for the supersonic flight from Heathrow on a British Airways Concorde, compared to £2,938 with Air France.

Nonetheless, BA's Concorde flights are flying almost full on every trip.

Even with the lower fares, Air France claims that it is still making money from its Concorde services.

Regional airports are to double the amount of money they borrow to spend on developing new terminals and improving facilities in the coming year, to £59 million.

Witness says police told him suspect 'in IRA'

By Craig Seton

A prosecution witness at the trial of six men convicted of the Birmingham pub bombings said yesterday that a police officer told him just before he gave evidence that John Walker, one of the accused, was an IRA lieutenant.

Mr Noel Walsh, aged 40, a former public house landlord from Birmingham, said he thought the uniformed police constable was acting as an usher, showing witnesses into the court room at Lancaster Crown Court, during the trial in 1975.

Mr Walsh's claim came only a day after it was confirmed that Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, was considering other new sub-

missions on behalf of the six men convicted of the Birmingham pub bombings in 1974, killing 21 people.

Mr Walsh, from Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham, said he had been called to give evidence about Patrick Hill, one of the accused, who drank with the others in the Crossways public house in Erdington, Birmingham, where Mr Walsh was landlord.

Mr Walsh said yesterday that he had been prepared to give evidence about Hill, who had arrived at the Crossways pub with a suitcase and said he was going to "bomb the town", which he had assumed was a joke. However, he said he had also been prepared to tell the court that he believed John Walker was innocent,

as he was not the kind of man who could carry out the bombings.

Mr Walsh said that shortly before he was called to give evidence, he had said he thought Walker was innocent while talking to police officers in a corridor outside the courtroom. He said the constable told him that Walker was a high-ranking IRA officer and then said: "Do you know Walker was an IRA lieutenant?"

Mr Walsh said yesterday that he was shocked. "It threw me. At the time I believed it. I felt disillusioned. You think you know a person and want to try and help, and then that is told to you. I was in a daze. I just wanted to get out of that court."

He added, however, that when he

gave evidence he was not given an opportunity to say that he believed Walker was innocent.

Mr Walsh, a married man with three daughters, said he had come forward after publicity about an inquiry into alleged fabrication of evidence by members of the serious crime squad of West Midlands police, the force which investigated the bombings.

Mr Walsh said: "I would be prepared to go to court and say what I know. This is not a grudge thing. I like the police, but you read about people being in prison for something they have not done. I would not say 100 per cent that all of the six are innocent, but maybe there might be some who had nothing to do with it."

Preserved genes may resurrect extinct animals

By Nick Nuttall

Technology Correspondent

Scientists are attempting to resurrect an insect that died more than 40 million years ago by using its preserved genetic code.

If they succeed, some researchers predict that other extinct animals, including dinosaurs, could also be resurrected from their remains. The fossilized insect, a fungus gnat, has been preserved in mineral amber with some of its genetic code in pristine condition.

Genetic engineers at the University of California believe that technology has advanced so far that strands of the insect's genetic blueprint can be excised. They plan to insert this code into the eggs of a living descendant to produce a clone of the ancient gnat. News of the work comes as Russian

scientists are trying to recreate the woolly mammoth from frozen specimens found in Siberia. In this case, they hope to insert strands of the mammoth's DNA, its genetic "building blocks", into an elephant's ovum.

Dr Harry Moore, a geneticist at London Zoo, said that the work highlighted the rapid pace of development in genetic engineering.

He emphasized that techniques did not yet exist to replicate a living animal from the genetic code gleaned from blood cells, skin or other tissue. However, "the way things have moved in the last few years, it may be possible in 30 or 40 years."

At London Zoo, researchers are setting up a freezer bank to preserve the sex cells of endangered species, including the black rhinoceros. Dr Moore said that they were also planning to preserve genetic strands of

animals. The possibility that dinosaurs might be revived hinges on the hope that a well-preserved specimen will be found with some strands of DNA intact.

Dr Moore said there were already chemical techniques capable of amplifying a million times tiny amounts of DNA.

These techniques are being harnessed by scientists at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to map the genetic code of the bones of men who lived thousands of years ago. Such mapping reveals valuable clues about a creature's ancestry.

Dr Moore said that the zoo project was also designed for "the possibility of being able to transfer the strands into an appropriate nucleus". Half a billion animal species are thought to have once existed on Earth yet just two per cent are alive today, and the

numbers are falling. Extinction has almost invariably been at the hand of man.

Dr Cyril Walker, of the Natural History Museum, London, said that the museum was receiving an increasing number of letters from scientists asking for bits of extinct animals for genetic research.

"I have a letter on my desk at this moment from someone at the University of Cincinnati asking if I can send a bit of Dodo bone or two so he can look at nucleotide blood cells. All part and parcel of this whole business," he said.

He does not believe, however, that museums would go out of business if genetic engineers succeeded in bringing extinct animals back to life. "It would be great if they could. At least we would find out how they worked and more accurately what they looked like."

Medical facilities at soccer 'amateurish'

Medical staff who treated casualties of the disaster at the Hillsborough football stadium yesterday attacked the "amateurish" medical facilities at soccer grounds.

They claimed that Lord Justice Taylor's interim report on the tragedy was wrong to conclude that a defibrillator—a machine which applies an electric current to the heart—could not have been safely used to help treat victims.

The medical personnel who tended the injured and dying after the crush at the FA Cup semi-final in which 95 Liverpool fans were killed have submitted their evidence to

the Taylor inquiry. Some were spectators at the match, while others responded to media appeals for help and went to the ground.

They have now formed the Medics at Hillsborough Working Party, which includes doctors, a nurse and a medical student, to make recommendations on the provision of emergency service at football grounds in future.

They recommend that committees of experts should be responsible for safety procedures at matches and similar events, and that their arrangements should be enforced by law.

Ceausescu mythology flourishes in Dracula's domain

From Roger Boyes
Bran, Transylvania

The dogs howled. The peasant made a clucking noise to urge on his cart horse. Night had slumped on Transylvania and the towers of Bran Castle, poking up over the valley, were only darkly visible.

"We are all Draculas," some worthy German tourist has scrawled in the guest book of the 14th-century fortress that may, or may not, have been a residence of Vlad the Impaler. Nicolae Ceausescu was obsessed by Vlad, the model for Bram Stoker's Dracula.

Now there, according to Ceausescu era history, was a true Romanian leader. Firm with his people but fighting for independence from the Turks (read, in modern times, the Russians).

"With his political vision, his diplomatic expertise and his great military capabilities, he embodied the very spirit of history," said a Romanian journal in 1977, on the 50th anniversary of Vlad's death.

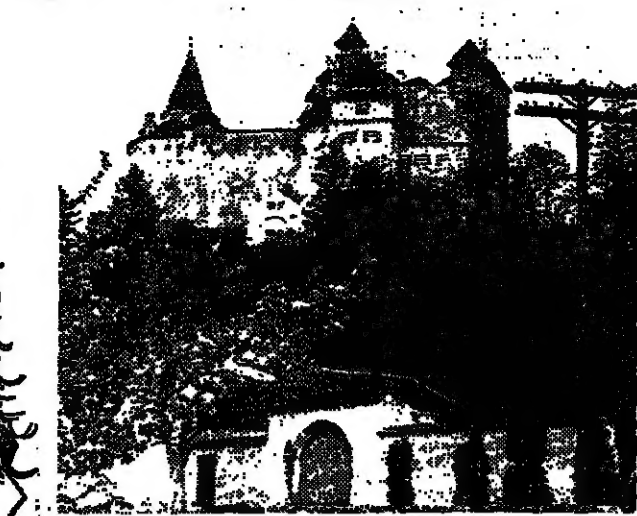
In case anyone missed the point, Elena Ceausescu told her husband in a speech: "A man like you is born only every 500 years." First Vlad, then Ceausescu. Only another



Vlad the Impaler, model for Dracula, who was worshipped by Ceausescu and Bran Castle.

499 years to go. Ceausescu bent history, deformed it as will. In the Ceausescu museum in Bucharest — the leader with sceptre, his honorary doctorate robes, his respectful Pergamon Press biography, his collected speeches in Korean, photographs with Mr Richard Nixon and the Queen — the main point is to establish him as a man of destiny.

A line is drawn from Vlad to Ceausescu and communism



gets little mention. Dracula, of course, had to be cleaned up if he was going to serve a useful modern purpose. No more blood sucking.

In the Borgo Pass (remember Bram Stoker's invitation: "My coach is waiting for you at the Borgo Pass and will bring you to my castle — your friend, Dracula"), which really bears the name Pasul Tihuta, there were plans to build a Dracula hotel with loudspeakers that would greet tourists

with recorded wolf howls. Ceausescu cancelled the project.

In each of the many stations of Dracula's life — in Bran, in Hunedoara Castle, in Brasov, in Bistrita (where the hapless Jonathan Harker spent his last night before falling victim to the Transylvanian prince) there is no mention of vampires or blood-letting. Vlad emerges as a decent, if sometimes painfully misunderstood figure. In Sighisoara, the

local council was ordered not to sensationalize Vlad's birthplace. There is a simple plaque and, inside, a scrappy restaurant whose menu has marginally improved since the new revolutionary leadership banned food exports.

Vlad the Impaler earned his nickname by sticking Turks on to sharpened poles until their stomachs exploded. Once, when questioned by a vassal how he could possibly eat breakfast surrounded by the stench of so many corpses, Vlad humorously insisted on impaling him on a particularly high pole so that he "could breathe cleaner air". Turks on poles were positioned along the roadside like milestones.

Nowadays, the stench around Bran wafts over from the factories of nearby Cluj and Brasov, and from the poisonous exhausts of Dacia cars.

The poles have been replaced by billboards which until Christmas bore portraits of a surprisingly youthful Ceausescu and some of his more memorable sayings. Now they are just blank spots and the posters are scraped clean. Children make snowmen with funny Ceausescu-like faces and sticks

through the heart. The revolution has arrived.

"I must tell you," says a guide to Bran Castle, "nobody knows whether Vlad really lived here." Previously he was not allowed to confess such doubts; since Christmas he can utter the heresy.

Vlad, like Ceausescu, his spiritual descendant, had castles everywhere. Since Bran was the most imposing in Transylvania — it juts up like a Disneyland fantasy — and since nobody dared to challenge Vlad's authority, it follows that he took over the property.

There is no other evidence. A more likely bet is Hunedoara. This, plainly, was a model for Ceausescu: a network of escape tunnels stretch underneath the most into the countryside. Fast stations, rather than white helicopters, awaited him. Ceausescu grasped better even than the leaders of neighbouring Communist countries that the country could not be governed solely from the capital.

Instead, like Vlad, he rotated residences. On the shore of the Snagov lake, both Vlad and Ceausescu had summer houses. Ceausescu's had a yacht harbour, a fine park, and

inside the usual marble and gold. Vlad's was more modest.

It contains his grave, or at least a grave plate. Here Vlad fell, in 1477, fighting the Turks. That is the version of the Ceausescu historians. The other legend is that he was attacked from behind by a former friend and decapitated. Bram Stoker's Dracula, it will be recalled, had his throat cut while a knife was run through



his heart. He then decomposed, leaving a pile of dust.

Ceausescu's death is already the subject of legend. Not everybody in Romania believes that he was really shot. Perhaps a deal was struck that allowed the dictator to escape abroad?

It is a mark of the new freedom that such subjects can be discussed openly with

Romanians across a Transylvanian restaurant table. The casual thing is that most Romanians — above all the Securitate killers — actually believe that the dictator is dead.

Whether he has really become a pile of dust is not, two weeks into the revolution, of great political importance.

But the mythology of Ceausescu's death is encouraged not only by the hasty military trial and the heavily edited pictures of his corpse. Why were there no pictures of Elena's corpse? And what has happened to the corpse? There appears to have been an argument within the revolutionary leadership as to whether to embalm Ceausescu or cremate him. Either way, the mummy or the ashes would have to be removed from Romania.

As if bound by some primitive superstition, nobody in the revolutionary leadership wants to discuss this grisly subject.

In Bran, meanwhile, they are resorting to more traditional antidotes — chewing garlic and erecting wooden crosses on the wayside — lest the deposed dictator return from the dead.

Top dissident calls for protests

Romanians 'face Communist danger'

From Christopher Walker
Bucharest

One of Romania's most prominent dissidents under the Ceausescu regime has warned her countrymen that Communists who served the executed dictator now threaten to regain control of the country. She urged workers to take to the streets in renewed demonstrations.

Mrs Doina Cornea's warning came as a crowd of up to 1,000 Romanians besieged the passport office in Bucharest to obtain travel documents in the wake of a government decree allowing free travel abroad.

But the lifting of the travel restrictions was tempered by growing criticism of the National Salvation Front which seized power from Ceausescu last month.

Mrs Cornea, one of the country's most distinguished dissidents, said in an interview in Cluj: "Now is the time to demonstrate. If the workers are strong then they can keep the revolution going."

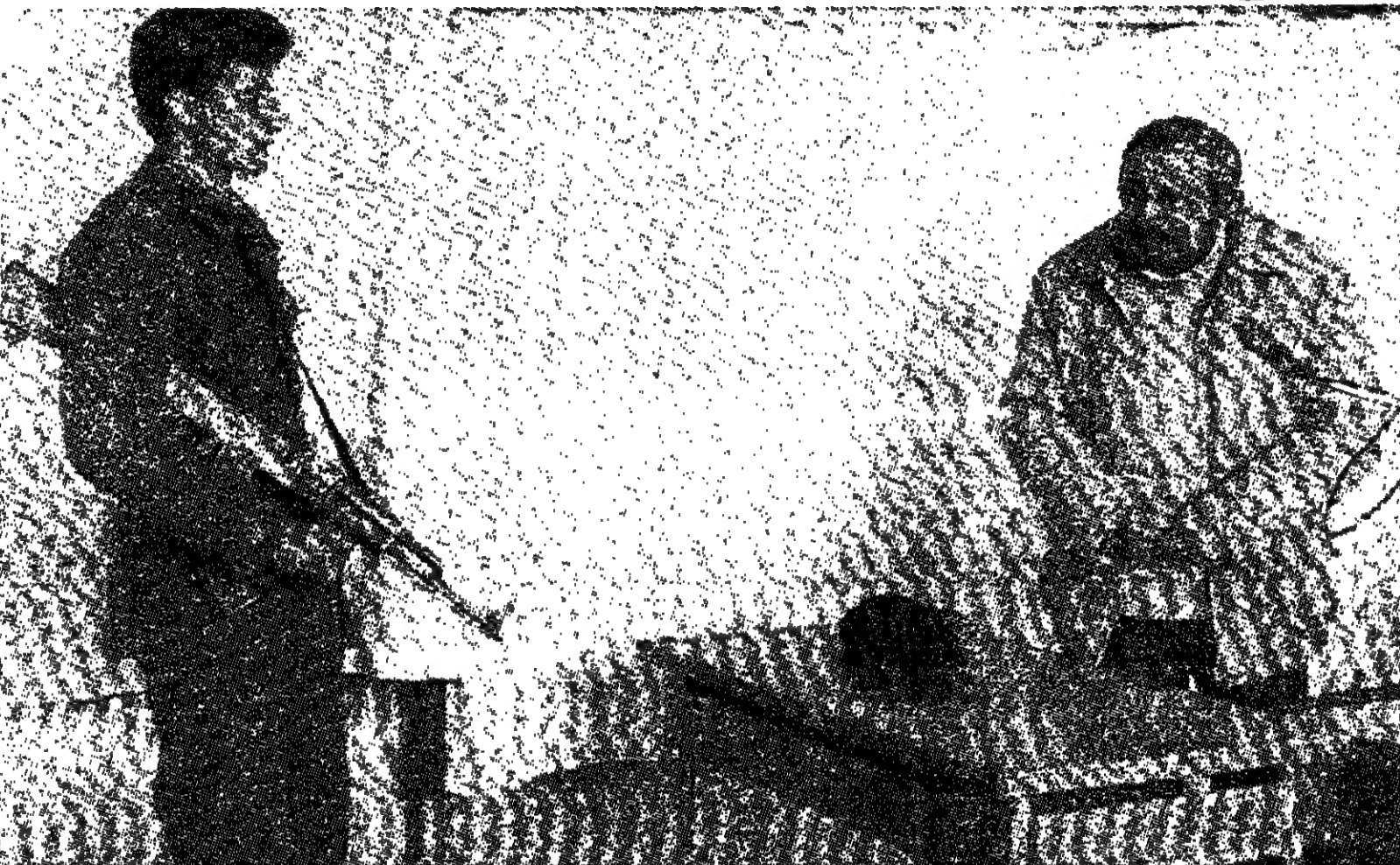
"The people are unhappy. Every day workers come to see me and say: 'Why did you carry out the revolution, can't you see that the same old people are still in power?' People are beginning to control the situation with fear and threats."

In the face of a growing number of shootings and lynchings, the interim Government yesterday issued an urgent appeal for calm and urged the people not to indulge in revenge killing against supporters of the former Ceausescu regime.

The appeal was broadcast nationally and published in the Romanian press. It also called on the population to abandon the Stalinist practice of anonymous denunciations widespread under the old dictatorship.

The majority of the revenge attacks against suspected collaborators appear to have been taking place in the provinces, where the Army's grip is less secure. Even in the capital, there have been a number of unexplained shootings in recent days.

The appeal mentioned "executions without trial" and



Under guard: Major Ion Budea, Sibiu militia chief, at his trial for attempted murder during the Romanian revolution. He was sentenced to nine years' jail.

reports spoke of whole families being terrorized.

"These are criminal actions which are happening and remind us of the old dictatorship," the statement said. "They are foreign and completely opposed to the new democratic climate."

In diplomatic circles the decision to issue the appeal was seen as confirmation of fears that the country could again be plunged into instability if law and order cannot be restored quickly. The call coincided with the opening of the first televised trials of those who violently opposed the December revolution.

Although the death sentence was abolished after last month's execution of the Ceausescus, the widespread desire for revenge is symbolized by the grotesque effigy of the former dictator which still hangs by a rope from a

snow-covered tree near the centre of Bucharest.

Shrines to the dead which dot the city's streets, attended at all times by large crowds with candles, and the photographs and death notices of

Geneva (Reuters) — Princess Margherita, eldest daughter of King Michael, the former king of Romania, and several friends of the country living in the West have formed an association to safeguard Romania's artistic and cultural heritage. The group aims to reverse the destruction of culture under Ceausescu.

victims still appearing daily in the newspaper, *Romania Libera*, have helped to maintain a high state of emotion against those who fought in defence of the Ceausescus.

Typical of the ugly new mood is the large notice

pinned to a wall in the city centre. "Citizens. Check your papers and check among those around you," it demanded. "It is not a matter for shame. The criminals are amongst us." Instant identity checks have become commonplace, particularly on public transport.

Because of the ubiquitous nature of the old security police, many ordinary Romanians have strong suspicions about individuals they believe may have been connected with it. Observers doubt that government appeals can prevent continuing acts of revenge as feeling against the excesses of the old rulers runs so high.

In the heavily-guarded radio and television headquarters, the engine room of the revolution and the main source of information about the birth pangs of the new

order, lights are switched off at night for fear of snipers. Studios in certain key areas remain out of bounds because of their proximity to the concealed network constructed by Ceausescu.

In remote regions of the country, security alerts are still commonplace with the conviction reported to be widespread among the new leaders that counter-revolutionary violence can be expected. Urgent measures are being taken to boost security at Bucharest airport in case of sabotage attacks against flights of the national airline, Tarom.

Most Romanians remain convinced that "foreign agents", notably Arabs, were involved in the defence of the old dictatorship. The conviction has been unshaken by repeated denials from the Palestine Liberation Organization and a number of

Arab governments that their nationals took part in the fighting. As a result, diplomatic reports speak of many Arab students afraid to venture out for fear of attack.

Prison riot: The Army was forced to take control of Bucharest's main prison yesterday after three days of rioting, apparently over a government amnesty (Reuters reports). Relatives of prisoners said three had been killed but officials only said that 10 inmates were injured.

An army major at the prison said the situation was under control. About 100 inmates were due to be released yesterday from the prison, about 10 miles outside Bucharest, under an amnesty decreed by the National Salvation Front last month. The major said long-term inmates not affected by the amnesty attacked prison guards.

Threat by New Forum fails to gain support

From Ann McElroy, East Berlin

East Germany's opposition groups have refused to support a New Forum threat to quit the round-table talks with the Government if plans to re-establish a security service are not cancelled.

They are concerned that they are losing public support by opting out of talks with the Government.

New Forum's ultimatum follows the suspension on Monday of the talks after the Government failed to satisfy the opposition that it was serious about dissolving the country's former security service, the Office of National Security. At least 60,000 of the former 85,000 employees of the office are still at their posts.

Frau Ingrid Koppe, a New Forum spokesman, said the Government was clearly acting against the wishes of the majority of opposition groups in the country if it went ahead with its proposed formation of an agency for the protection of the constitution before the May elections.

The Government insists that such an organization is necessary to tackle the threat of neo-Nazism in the country.

Herr Konrad Weiss, of Democracy Now, said it was time the opposition ceased threatening and was seen to be constructive as the election campaign gets under way.

All of the main opposition groups agreed to hold a demonstration tomorrow when the East German Parliament meets to discuss future security policy in view of the perceived increase in neo-Nazi activity.

The opposition is also demanding greater access to the media, which is still dominated by the communist party and a share in the party's facilities in the run-up to the May elections.

The Monday evening demonstration in Leipzig, attended by 150,000 people, showed a fresh hostility towards the Socialist Unity (communist) Party with many demonstrators carrying banners accusing it of exaggerating the threat from the right to

enhance its own electoral chances.

Meanwhile, East Germany has publicly rehabilitated its national anthem, "A Rhythm from Ruins", after 18 years of suppressing the lyrics and allowing only the tune to be played in public.

The cause of the ban was the pro-reunification line "Deutschland einig Vaterland" — Germany one fatherland — now chanted by demonstrators across the country at pro-unity marches.

East German newspapers and television have publicized the lyrics, unknown to most young East Germans, and *Neues Deutschland*, the communist party daily, said the decision of Herr Erich

Bonn — Frau Johanna Topfer, a disgraced senior official of an East German trade union, who was under investigation for abuse of office, has committed suicide, according to a West German press report (Reuters reports). Frau Topfer was also a member of parliament under former President Honecker.

Honecker, the former leader, to ban the lyrics had contributed to "a loss of identification with the state and country".

● BONN: Berlin's chances of hosting the Olympic Games on both sides of the Wall in 2000 or 2004 were given another important boost yesterday when Hamburg announced that it was withdrawing its candidature (see Murray writes). It was the most important West German contender for the expensive honour of staging the Games, but Herr Henning Voss, the Mayor, said yesterday that he was withdrawing and offering to support a joint application by the divided city.

Last weekend the East German National Olympic Committee said it would support the application and West Berlin wants the International Olympic Committee to discuss the idea at its next meeting in September.

US missile cuts talks in Moscow

From Susan Elliott in Washington and John Best in Ottawa

Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, will visit Moscow early next month to try to remove obstacles to a US-Soviet treaty cutting long-range nuclear missiles, American government officials announced yesterday.

Mr Baker will hold discussions with Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, from February 6-7 and is considering a visit to Czechoslovakia as a sign of US support for democratic reforms in the country. Moscow has not yet announced the dates for the trip or the topic of the talks.

It is possible that Mr Baker will also raise with his Soviet counterpart the differences that have emerged over President Bush's "open skies" proposal, under which both sides would be able to carry out surveillance flights of each other's territory in order to verify the arms reductions agreed on at Geneva summits.

Mr Baker and Mr Shevardnadze will both be going to Ottawa later in February to attend a special "open skies" conference for NATO and Warsaw Pact foreign ministers.

Yesterday, a Canadian of-

ficial said the West firmly opposed a Soviet demand that a common fleet of surveillance aircraft should be employed by the two sides to fly over one another's territory, and that intelligence data gathered in the flights be shared.

He also rejected a Soviet demand that American bases all over the world be brought within the embrace of the plan. Under President Bush's proposals, approved by NATO,

only the territories of the two military alliances would be covered.

"We cannot negotiate overflights of the Philippines, for instance, and we will have to tell the Soviets that," the official said.

Mr Igor Liakin-Frolov, councillor of the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa, said in a newspaper interview yesterday that the differences over standardized equipment and offshore bases could im-

pair the chances of the open skies plan.

However, Canadian officials rejected suggestions that the differences could scuttle the plan. "We are extremely optimistic," one official said.

In his talks with Mr Shevardnadze in Moscow next month, Mr Baker will try to resolve the principle stumbling blocks in the negotiations on long-range missiles so that a treaty can be ready for signing in the summer.

The superpowers, who have been discussing strategic arms cuts since 1985 in Geneva, have agreed to cut long-range missile arsenals by one-half to 6,000 warheads each over seven years.

There is an important difference over the rules for counting air-launched missiles, however.

Moscow has also proposed limits of 400 nuclear and 600 conventional sea-launched cruise missiles. Washington has said that the two nations should only make non-binding declarations of the numbers of nuclear, sea-launched missiles, which are not included in the 6,000 limit.

Poison umbrella murder affair

Markov widow seeks Bulgaria inquiry

By Michael Knipe
Diplomatic Correspondent

Mrs Annabel Markov, the widow of Georgi Markov, the Bulgarian émigré who was killed by a poisoned pellet in London's most notorious political assassination 12 years ago, has flown to Sofia in the hope of persuading Bulgaria's new rulers to investigate his murder.

She said yesterday that she had been heartened by news from Bulgaria that her husband had been rehabilitated and that his writings could now be sold in Bulgaria. She had, she said, decided to fly to Bulgaria in an attempt to discover the details of his murder.

Markov, a celebrated Bulgarian writer and broadcaster, died after a man jabbed him with an umbrella tip on Waterloo Bridge.

A post mortem examination revealed a right thigh and forearm scientists, with the help of scientists from the Government's chemical defence establishment at Porton Down, discovered that a 1.52 mm-wide pinhead pellet



Georgi Markov, who was assassinated with a poison pellet, and his wife, Annabel, who is seeking a Sofia investigation.



Markov had been a protégé of Mr Todor Zhivkov, Bulgaria's veteran Communist leader ousted last month, but had become sickened by the corruption and defected in 1969.

After settling in London, he began broadcasting a weekly cultural programme for the BBC's Bulgarian Service and a series of weekly programmes

assassin on the orders of the Bulgarian Politburo. "I think that this really has to be cleared up before we can see a new Bulgaria because it is a stain on its reputation," Mrs Markov said in an interview with BBC television.

"It was one of the worst crimes of the Cold War. If ever there was a moment when the truth could come out about this, it is now."

A Foreign Office spokesman said he now expected the Bulgarian authorities to be more open about the affair. "There have been noises coming out of the Bulgarian Embassy here that they appreciate this was not exactly a commendable way to carry on so we hope they will afford her some kind of assistance," the spokesman said. "We think the new atmosphere in Bulgaria will help to ensure that Mrs Markov's mission bears fruit."

Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, a personal friend of the Markovs, last month called on the Bulgarian authorities to open up the books on the case.

Bush calls off drug 'blockade' after Colombian outcry

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

The Bush Administration has postponed and played down plans to position an anti-drugs naval task force off the Colombian coast because of the furious reaction in Colombia.

The aircraft-carrier USS John F. Kennedy and the nuclear-powered cruiser USS Virginia left for the southern Caribbean last Thursday night but are now engaged in what the Pentagon describes as routine training exercises off Florida.

The State Department has disputed media reports that the objective of the aircraft-carrier group was to mount a "blockade" of Colombia to prevent drugs from reaching the US by air or sea. The aim was simply to monitor air and sea traffic in the region and, without use of force, alert the authorities to suspected drug smugglers, a spokeswoman said.

"We are considering the use of naval assets but no decisions have been made," she said, adding "Anything that is done - if anything is done - will be done in full consultation and co-ordination with any other Government."

The row with Colombia is highly embarrassing for the US, which has been extremely supportive of President Barco's war against the cocaine cartels but now appears to have overstepped the mark. Administration officials privately admit to a public relations blunder.

Early leaks of the US plan used the term "blockade" and provoked an instant backlash in Colombia, where latent resistance to displays of US military force had already been increased by the US

invasion of Panama. Colombian authorities last week refused to meet an American team sent to explain the plan, and the Administration in Washington postponed a formal announcement about it.

President Barco, facing a reelection battle in May, said on Sunday that his Government had not authorized and "will not participate" in any joint operations with the US Navy. The plan was denounced by the media and opposition parties.

One US administration official was quoted here yesterday as suggesting the plan might have to be shelved for some time. "It isn't smart to deploy military assets without consulting. We need to let some time pass," he said.

Senator John Kerry, Democratic chairman of the Senate narcotics and terrorism subcommittee, said a US naval surveillance role was not "inappropriate" but "clearly the Administration made a mistake in moving unilaterally and I think also the timing, post-Panama, was difficult."

In a further sign of Latin American displeasure, the Organization of American States voted 16-0 on Monday night to condemn the recent search by American soldiers of the Nicaraguan ambassador's residence in Panama City.

Six nations abstained, including the US, whose delegate said the incident was an honest mistake and accused the Nicaraguans of inflating its importance.

● **BOGOTÁ:** The announcement that the US was postponing naval manoeuvres aimed at countering cocaine smuggling was welcomed in Latin Amer-

ica, where fears had mounted of further US military adventurism in the wake of the invasion of Panama (Geoffrey Matthews writes).

The news was considered likely to end strong rumours of an imminent resignation by Señor Julio Londoño Parades, Colombia's highly respected Foreign Minister, who denounced the process. He has received strong support from the foreign ministers of Ecuador and Peru.

Although Washington had always stressed that the USS John F. Kennedy and several other battleships and cruisers would operate in international waters, the Bush Administration clearly blundered diplomatically in failing to consult fully with Bogotá and the other South American capitals which it regards as allies in the drug war.

Señor Londoño specifically expressed concern that legitimate Colombian shipping might be harassed and possibly boarded by the US armada in international waters.

He said it might be "more worthwhile if efficient air and naval control were to be mounted by the United States over its own coast and territorial frontiers since, despite its great military and technological capacity, it has been unable either to impede the entry of drugs into its territory or to prevent the shipment of arms and chemicals to Colombia and other countries."

He was referring to the trafficking of sophisticated arms, almost exclusively US-made, to Colombia's cocaine racketeers and the supply of key chemicals required in the processing of cocaine.

Noriega bail hearing requested

From Charles Bremner
New York

A federal judge yesterday scheduled a court hearing to consider a sudden request by prosecutors that General Manuel Noriega, the deposed Panamanian leader, be compelled to have a bail hearing, a court spokesman said.

Authorities were expected

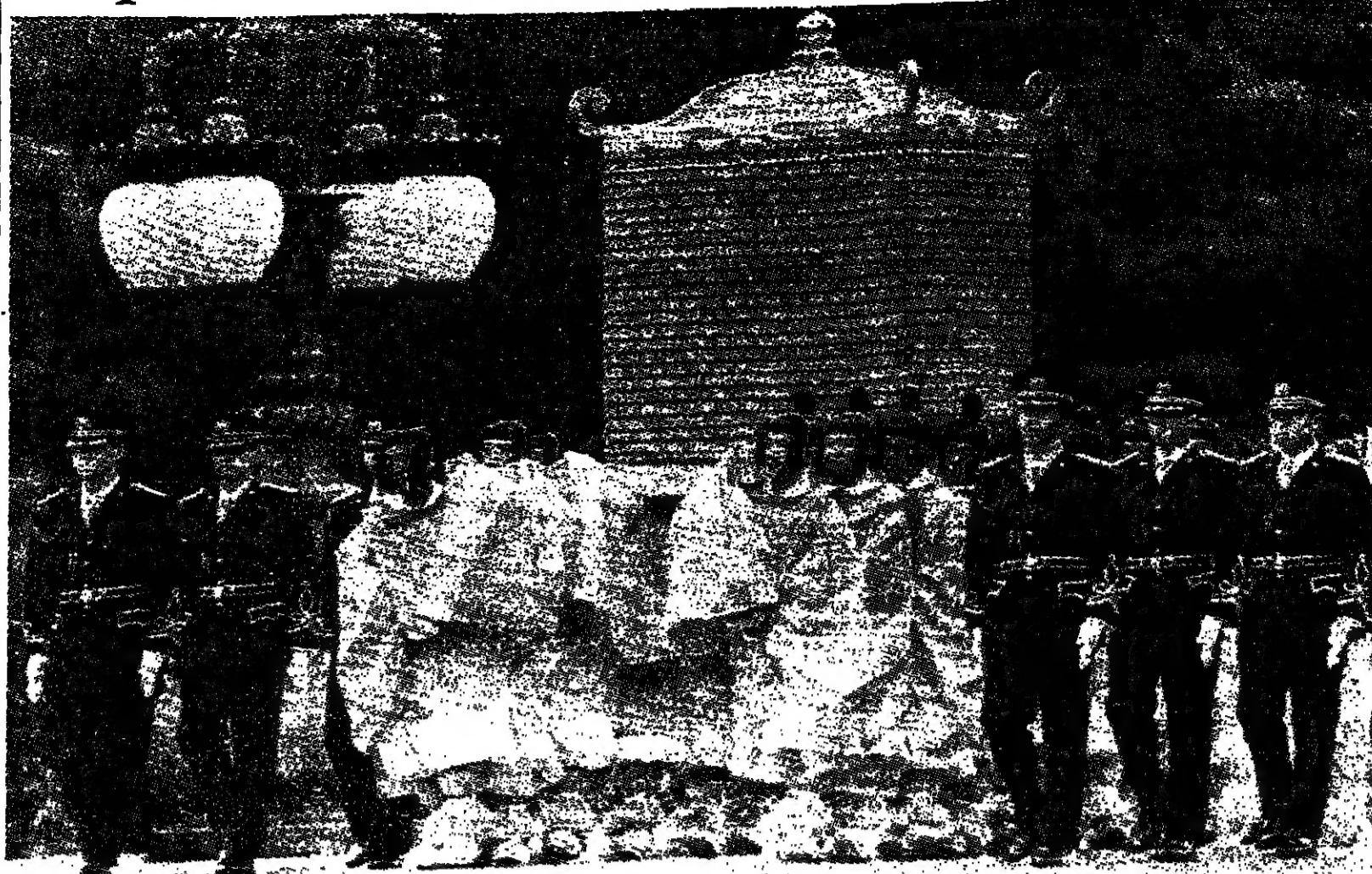
to move General Noriega to a high-security prison in Atlanta last night. His lawyers were reported to be confident that he held secrets which would cause great discomfort to the Bush Administration.

The move was aimed at preventing any escape attempts or any possible bid on the life of the general.

Neither the defence, nor the prosecution are ready to open the long legal battle that is expected to culminate in the dictator's trial probably late this year.

But Judge William H. Miller must rule soon on a claim that the US courts have no jurisdiction to try a foreign leader seized "illegally".

Imperial Sanctuary rest for Hirohito spirit



Final journey: Imperial Palace Guardsmen escort the shrine, carried by 16 palace employees, taking the spirit of the late Emperor Hirohito from a palace chamber to the Imperial Sanctuary in Tokyo yesterday. The transference ceremony was part of the formal rites marking the first anniversary of his death.

Pretoria radio backs Mandela release

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg

South African state-controlled radio has gone out of its way to prepare people for the imminent release from prison of Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader.

This comes after Mrs Winnie Mandela's statement on Monday that her husband had told her for the first time to start making arrangements for his release.

In its daily *Comment* programme to be broadcast today, the South African Broadcasting Corporation said: "South Africa has moved beyond the stage of political leaders merely expressing themselves on the need for negotiated progress."

It added: "The debate has begun to address the nuts and bolts of the process - to identify what needs to be done

on all sides for it to be undertaken successfully. That task requires the active participation of all representative leaders who support peaceful change."

The significance of the broadcast is that the corporation has been consistently used by the Government to project its views.

The broadcast noted that

Mandela expressed his support for peaceful development when he met former President Botha last July, and that the release of seven of his colleagues last September was "something of a trial run".

It said: "The seven were fitted in highly emotional mass ceremonies - as Mr Mandela himself undoubtedly would be - but their release passed the

more fundamental test set by the authorities, that it should not be accompanied by an upsurge in unrest and violence."

By identifying himself with the ideals of peaceful development, Mandela had redefined his position "in the context of moves towards negotiated political change."

It is anticipated in many

quarters that President de Klerk will order the release of Mandela, aged 71, to coincide with the opening of Parliament on February 2.

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democrats, who is visiting South Africa and met Mr de Klerk on Monday, said that the South African leader told him openly that he was in a hurry to push ahead with reforms preparing the ground for negotiations with black leaders.

In another significant move, the Government has granted a long-denied visa to the Rev Jesse Jackson, the American black leader and one of its fiercest critics.

Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, the Foreign Minister, said Mr Jackson "will be welcome to come to South Africa and the necessary visa will be issued to him to travel at a mutually convenient time."

Up to 25 strikers killed in clash

From Our Correspondent
Johannesburg

Between six and 25 striking black railway workers were killed and scores injured in a 45-minute pitched battle with non-striking near here yesterday.

Police put the death toll at six with 31 injured, but a spokesman for the Council of

South African Trade Unions said at least 25 people were killed and 60 injured, and said police intervened too late.

The battle erupted when a train carrying about 800 strikers arrived at a station platform in the town of Germiston for a union meeting and was met by about 1,000 non-striking. The 10-week strike

by the South African Railways and Harbours Union over a pay claim and the refusal of the nationalized South African Transport Services, which runs the country's railways, to recognize it, has already claimed 17 lives.

The body has also dismissed more than 20,000 of the strikers.

Opposition to Khamenei

Rift between Iran ayatollahs widens

By Hozir Teimourian

More rallies were held yesterday in Tehran, the Iranian capital, and in provincial cities to demonstrate support for Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the nominal spiritual leader of the country, in the face of a declaration by a number of influential religious leaders on the fringes of the Government that he did not merit the position.

Made up predominantly of government employees, the rallies heard veiled attacks on Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, the former designated successor to Ayatollah Khomeini, whom the dissident Muslim clerics have put forward as the rightful candidate for the leadership, and to whom increasing numbers of people look for a challenger.

The rally in the holy city of Qom, the seat of Ayatollah Montazeri, was addressed by Ayatollah Khamenei himself, who described the city as "the centre of Islam and the Islamic revolution".

Other speakers criticized the dissidents as enemies of the revolution and said that the principle of *Velayat-e Faqih*, the guardianship of an Islamic society by a leading theologian, was the foundation of Iran's Islamic state.

State television showed the Qom crowd chanting, "Khamenei is the leader. We are sacrifices to the leader. We are the people of the Prophet. Death to the counter-revolution." On Monday, Ayatollah

Khamenei said he would not tolerate any criticism of government officials as it was sinful.

"The key to the success of the executive, the judiciary and the legislature is their decisive backing by the nation," he said. "Any act or word which weakens the people's trust in these powers and undermines their support in the least is *haram* (forbidden) on religious grounds and treason."

Ayatollah Montazeri, the subject of this attack, has remained silent since the declaration last week in Tehran by Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani, a former Prime Minister under Ayatollah Khomeini, and eight other influential religious leaders, that he, and not Ayatollah Khamenei, was the most deserving theologian to occupy the office of the supreme leadership. His supporters are reported to have held anti-government rallies in Qom, Isfahan and Najafabad, his home town near Isfahan.

The rift results from the general belief that the political promotion of Ayatollah Khamenei, a junior cleric, to the rank of ayatollah last August, and his election to the leadership of the state, were contrary to the spirit of the constitution.

It is further deepened by the decline of the economy, in spite of the end of the war with Iraq in 1988.

Wilson mission to mend China fences

From Jonathan Brande
Hong Kong

The Governor of Hong Kong, Sir David Wilson, leaves for Peking today for his first visit to China since last June's military crackdown, in a last ditch attempt to convince the Chinese leadership of the need for greater democracy in the territory and to improve Sino-Hong Kong relations.

On the eve of the visit yesterday, government radio in Hong Kong reported that his advisers on the Executive Council had rejected the draft of a Bill of Rights because it did not contain a provision to protect it from being overridden by Peking.

A Government spokesman said the Bill, to protect fundamental freedoms for Hong Kong people after the British colony is handed to China in 1997, had been delayed because members of the council feared that it would not take precedence over the laws drafted by China, which are



Sir David Wilson: Paving way for Hurd visit to China, expected to be promulgated later this year.

It also did not have a special "entrenched" status, requiring special procedures for amending or repealing it.

Apart from discussions on the issue of a Bill of Rights, Sir David will also attempt to assess the mood in the Chinese capital in advance of the arrival of Mr Douglas Hurd,

the Foreign Secretary, in Hong Kong at the weekend.

His report will play a crucial role in determining the Foreign Secretary's own policy on the pace of democratic development in the British colony.

Sir David's high-profile visit, designed to shore up confidence in Hong Kong, contrasts with the secret mission to Peking last month by Sir Percy Cradock, the Prime Minister's senior foreign affairs adviser. Sir Percy's aim appears to have been to improve the British Government's relations with China.

Reports that the Governor will be meeting Mr Li Peng, the Chinese Premier, are seen as an indication that China also regards it as more than mere diplomatic routine.

He will also meet Mr Zhou Nan, China's hardline Deputy Foreign Minister, one of two men tipped as most likely to succeed Peking's most senior representative in Hong Kong.

Mr Xu Jiatun, who retires at the end of the month.

The other main contender for the post is Mr Ye Xuanping, the present governor of China's Guangdong province, an economic liberal but more senior in China's diplomatic pecking order than Mr Zhou, and with strong ties to the military.

Sir David's visit comes a week before the committee drawing up the Basic Law, Hong Kong's post-1997 mini-constitution, meets to finalize the political structure that will govern the territory.

Last month, Chinese-appointed drafters, with a built-in majority on the committee, insisted that only 18 seats, or 30 per cent of the legislature, should be directly elected until well into the next century.

Of the models put forward, the most popular call is for 40-50 per cent of the legislature to be directly elected by 1997.

However, these consensus models have been dismissed

by China, which apparently fears that direct elections would give liberal forces too great a say in government.

The Governor will attempt to persuade Chinese leaders that Hong Kong could become unstable if demands for speedy political reform are ignored.

He will also attempt to explain Britain's decision to grant full passports to 225,000 Hong Kong people, in spite of China's blistering attack on the move as a breach of Britain's obligations under the Joint Declaration.

China fears that the package, designed to promote stability in Hong Kong, will have the opposite effect, causing division within the territory and undermining the loyalty to Peking of key Hong Kong figures.

Sir David will also seek Chinese co-operation in stemming the flow of Vietnamese boat people flooding into Hong Kong.

Riots hit Comoros capital

Moroni (Reuters) - Rioting broke out in the capital of the Comoros islands after police fired live bullets over the heads of demonstrators calling for a return to democracy.

The paramilitary gendarmes also used teargas to break up the crowd of several hundred people outside Moroni's main mosque in the protest, which was organized by opposition parties.

The demonstrators dispersed into small groups, which set off for other parts of the town, pillaging government buildings and setting fire to about 10 government vehicles.

Shuttle launch

Washington - The US space shuttle Columbia lifted off in cloudy skies yesterday on a mission to retrieve a satellite before it drifts to earth.

Soldier jailed

Jerusalem (Reuters) - Israel has jailed a soldier for spying on army radio it should have left the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, military sources said.

Storm havoc

New York (AP) - Storms rolled across north-western United States at the weekend, cutting electricity, ripping down trees and derailing a freight train.

Nuclear move

Stockholm (Reuters) - Mr Ingvar Carlsson, the Swedish Prime Minister, has announced a Cabinet reshuffle seen as relaxing the government's policy of phasing out nuclear power.

Coup threat

Manila (Reuters) - President Aquino has warned that a fresh army coup attempt could end in a "nightmarish blood-bath" in the Philippines and urged the country to unite to uphold democracy.

Riots kill 14

Srinagar (Reuters) - The killing of an intelligence policeman yesterday brought to 14 the official death toll in 24 hours of riots against India's rule in Kashmir.

Reptile claim

Sydney (Reuters) - An Australian Aboriginal said he had survived a crocodile attack in the Northern Territory by poking the reptile in the eyes as it dragged him underwater.



Mrs Hamada: Tired of scandals in ruling Liberal Democrats.

From Joe Joseph
Tokyo

In a country where parliamentary seats are handed down from father to son like family silver and polite women know their place, the wife of a Japanese politician is testing the Government's commitment to equality by standing against her husband's party in the general elections expected next month.

When Mr Takujiro Hamada, who has represented the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in the lower house for a decade, heard of his wife's decision he simply growled: "What a headache!"

Mrs Makiko Hamada, aged 47, says she is fed up with the scandal-plagued Liberal Democrats who she says, "will end up as a group of yakuza (gangsters) if things carry

on the way they are now". She says she is tired of mouthing stuffy Liberal Democrats' policies while campaigning for her husband when she has smarter ideas of her own.

Voters are also fed up. When her husband refused her pleas to quit the party, Mrs Hamada decided to run as an independent in a neighbouring constituency just north of Tokyo against one of his closest party colleagues.

The move has sent party leaders into a controlled fury. They are torn between telling Mr Hamada to take his wife in hand and their pledges to woo Japan's recently politicized female electorate.

The Government blames its humiliation in upper house elections last July on a heavy voting turn-out by women enraged by sex scandals, by the Recruit bribes

affair and by the introduction of a hated sales tax.

With an election for the more important lower house expected next month, the Government is

Tokyo (Reuters) - Mr Noboru Takeshita, the former Prime Minister, who stepped down last April, forecast yesterday that general elections would be held in Japan on February 18, Kyodo News Service reported. The date has been mentioned frequently in the media, but Mr Takeshita, the Prime Minister, has not yet made an announcement.

anxious not to rekindle women's wrath. But it also feels that it is odd for a woman who has spent the past 10 years loyally campaigning in her husband's constituency to turn

against him now. However, Mrs Hamada says: "What I am doing, I am doing for my husband and for the LDP. In the long run, changing the LDP will benefit him, as the LDP right now is not able to make the best use of his talent. He is a very good politician and I will vote for him in his constituency. He is giving me mental support."

"We got to know each other when we were students, and we know each other's characters very well. Our relationship is like an alliance, so there is no danger of a divorce."

Mrs Hamada, a literature graduate of the prestigious Tokyo University, a former airline hostess and now president of her own trading company, says that, while both she and her husband agree on the need for a new breed of

conservative politics in Japan, she believes that a new party is required while her husband favours changing the Liberal Democrats from the inside.

She says her husband cannot act boldly "because he is a man and has heavy responsibilities" whereas "women are freer and more flexible. It has always been women who have broken stalemates and changed history. I was shocked to learn that there are no female conservative MPs in the lower house."

"I'm not in this race to hurt my husband - or to save him. I want to help develop better politics in this country. The present LDP thrives on back-door deals for money and special interests, and such dealings are crucial factors in winning in the general election."

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Soldier jailed

Storm havoc

Nuclear mor

Coup threat

Riots kill 14

Reptile claim

Would you have the nerve to take a train ride that could last 15 years?

We would. We're Montedison, Italy's largest fine chemical company, part of the Ferruzzi Group. And we know that, if you want to change the future, you've got to start planning for it now. Materials chemistry. Health care. Clean energy. These are the fields of our endeavours. And these are the fields in which we are among the world leaders. It is only by creating solutions that are technologically and socially advanced, and compatible with our environment, that we can have an alternative that spells progress. And to do this, to be prepared for tomorrow, we must place research at the heart of our industrial system. This is what we are doing. And we're doing it with success. Every year we invest more than £200 million in Research and Development.

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NEXT GENERATION CHEMISTRY

January 9 1990

PARLIAMENT

House suspended in uproar over MP's allegation

The Commons sitting was suspended for 15 minutes amid scenes of confusion over a government motion giving a committee chairman power to suspend members of that committee if they failed to accept rulings.

The issue stemmed from a decision earlier in the day by Dame Janet Fookes, chairman of the committee considering the National Health Service and Community Care Bill, to suspend the committee's sitting after Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, a Labour member of it, refused to accept her ruling.

Dame Janet reported the incident to the House and Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the Commons, moved the motion giving her power to suspend any member of that committee at its further sittings.

The move was greeted with uproar on the Labour benches and a stream of points of order.

After 45 minutes of heated argument and allegations by Mr Campbell-Savours about a minister's links with a public relations company, the Speaker suspended the sitting to allow behind-the-scenes talks. When the sitting was resumed, Sir Geoffrey withdrew the motion.

Dame Janet said that as chairman of the standing committee she had to report the committee's decision on the NHS Bill had had to be adjourned.

Despite repeated requests from the chair, Mr Campbell-Savours (Wokingham, Lab) had persisted in raising a matter which she had ruled was not a matter for her.

"When it became crystal clear that the matter was not going to be resolved in any way I accepted a motion for the adjournment of the committee. This was passed without a division."

Sir Geoffrey said the House had to take seriously the matter raised by a distinguished and experienced chairman. It was clear, from what she had told the House, that the conduct she had reported made impossible the continued work of the standing committee.

He moved that Dame Janet, during the sitting of the Bill, should have power to direct that a member who disregarded the authority of the chair, or persistently and wilfully obstructed the business of the committee, should be withdrawn immediately from the committee for the remainder of the sitting.

Mr Campbell-Savours said that he had raised the matter of a company called Michael Forsyth Ltd, a lobbying company, a public relations company trading in the name of a minister of the Crown (Mr Michael Forsyth in the name of the Secretary of State, Scottish Office).

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Dr John Cunningham, shadow Leader of the House, asked why it was necessary to move the motion immediately. There should be a cooling-off period (Conservative laughter) and discussions between the front benches before taking an unprecedented step of this nature.

Mr Nicholas Bennett (Pembroke, C), a member of the standing committee, said that it had become clear that Mr Campbell-Savours intended to disrupt the work of the committee.

It was not a precedent because it had happened previously during discussion of Scottish legislation.

Mr Campbell-Savours said that he wanted to make clear to the chairman of the committee that it was not his intention to disrupt proceedings in future.

Therefore, if Sir Geoffrey had come to him the motion need not have been tabled (Conservative protests).

One of the government whips was kind enough to do that and came to see him in the tea room, and he would have disclosed his intentions to Sir Geoffrey.

The motion had been tabled because Sir Geoffrey did not want the issue that he had raised at committee aired before the public.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolton, Lab) said that it was important that the House knew from Mr Campbell-Savours, or others, exactly what took place. They could not properly decide the issue unless Mr Campbell-Savours was allowed to reveal what happened.

Mr Edward Rowlands (Merthyr Tydfid and Rhymney, Lab) said that it would be sensible to pause and read the Hansard report of the committee before they debated the motion.

Mr Jeremy Hayes (Harlow, C), a member of the committee, said that the issue was not what was discussed but the behaviour of Mr Campbell-Savours, who had disrupted the committee.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said that there was a need for reflection on the matter (Conservative protests). They must uphold the tradition of obedience to the ruling of the chair.

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The minister's secretary was Griseida Hayes, wife of the man who bought half the company from Mr Forsyth. There was a direct link between his secretary in the House, who saw mail from MPs when they wrote to Mr Forsyth there.

"She has access to this mail."

Though the minister denied it, Mr Forsyth had an informal agreement whereby if he was sacked or lost his job... (interruptions drowned out the rest of Mr Campbell-Savours' remarks).

After further points the Speaker said that it was difficult to come to a decision until the background of the matter was known.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, said that he had moved the adjournment of the committee this morning after Mr Campbell-Savours refused to sit down when asked, when he did not desist from making a speech when ruled out of order, and had berated rulings from the chair.

Sir Geoffrey said that the issue was a matter of order and the need to uphold the rulings of the chair.

He had attempted to find a solution through the usual channels, but, in the absence of such an undertaking and in view of the fact that the committee would resume at 4.30pm, he had felt it right to move the motion.

Mr Campbell-Savours said that Michael Forsyth Ltd was trading in the name of a minister of the Crown. Mr Forsyth had made an agreement with the new directors...

The Speaker said that if Mr Campbell-Savours was alleging that something irregular had occurred, the matter should be dealt with as a matter of privilege or, alternatively, if it were a question of interest outside Parliament, then the Select Committee on Members' Interests, of which Mr Campbell-Savours was a member, would be the right body.

Mr Campbell-Savours said that this was not a matter of privilege nor was it a matter for the Select Committee on Members' Interests since the rules governing the conduct of ministers' private affairs were set out by the Prime Minister and the select committee did not have jurisdiction.

After further interruptions, Mr Campbell-Savours said that he had asked the minister to assure the committee that he would not re-acquire his interest - and nor would his wife - in Michael Forsyth Ltd.

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Gustav Clarkson using his musical talent yesterday at a demonstration in Westminster during which environmental campaigners pressed the Government to reverse its decision to give £100 million to the International Tropical Forestry Action Plan (ITFAP). The plan, backed by the Prime Minister at the UN last November and intended to save the rain forests, was a disaster, the protesters said, which would leave "ecological Disneyland".

People in the industry believed, and he had been reliably told, that Mr Forsyth had an agreement to re-acquire those shares if he lost his job as a minister or ceased to be an MP.

The Speaker: These are allegations he cannot sustain. I have heard enough of the background to this case.

Mr Michael Foot (Blaenau Gwent, Lab) said that this was a debatable motion, although that had not been immediately evident to Sir Geoffrey when he had moved it.

The authority of the chair could not be upheld by a motion moved in this form which the House as a whole had not had the chance to consider.

Sir Geoffrey had a second opportunity. "The Leader of the House shakes his head before he has even heard what I said. It might be the safest way in the Chamber. If they shake their heads, they knock them off" (loud laughter).

Sir Geoffrey must withdraw the motion, giving all MPs the chance to consider it. That was the best way for him to go about upholding the chair.

If he proceeded with trying to rush through this motion, he would create still further confusion. If he did not withdraw, this was a debatable motion and all MPs would exercise their right of debate.

Mr Robin Cook, Opposition spokesman on health, said that he welcomed the situation in which Mr Campbell-Savours was in front of them the verbatim record.

They were also in the particularly difficult position that the committee recommended at 4.30pm "at which point all those MPs who are aware of what happened this morning will vanish from the chamber".

In this situation, surely it must be self-evident that this debate be deferred.

The Speaker then suspended the sitting.

When the sitting resumed, Dr Cunningham said that he had discussed the situation with Sir Geoffrey, and with Mr Campbell-Savours who had given him a new assurance that he would not disrupt the committee.

Sir Geoffrey said that the undertaking now given by Dr Cunningham, which was an affirmation of that given by Mr Campbell-Savours, was not available during an earlier stage. If it had been, the question of moving the motion would have been different.

The allegations had been firmly rebutted by Mr Forsyth.

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Thatcher asked to praise ambulance staff

The ambulance dispute was almost immediately raised in the first session of Prime Minister's questions since the Christmas break.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, asked Mrs Thatcher to join him in paying tribute to the skill and dedication of the ambulance workers who had worked at the scene of the multiple crash on the M25 last night.

Did she agree that it was inaccurate and insulting for these people to be labelled as merely professional drivers?

Mrs Thatcher said that she had always done, as the ambulance workers, many of whom were still working full time and providing emergency and accident cover, a number of those who were to the scene of the crash as merely professional drivers was both inaccurate and insulting?

It was the Government's wish to increase the number of ambulance staff with paramedical qualifications and for that reason the pay offer to ambulance workers varied between 9 per cent and 16.3 per cent, being slanted towards those with paramedical qualifications.

Mr Kinnock asked Mrs Thatcher to answer the essential part of the question. Did she agree that to describe the people who were to the scene of the crash as merely professional drivers was both inaccurate and insulting?

Mrs Thatcher said that she had gladly paid tribute to ambulance staff (Labour MPs: Answer). The Government wanted a bigger proportion of ambulance staff to have paramedical qualifications and to be able to give medical treatment at the scene of accidents and for that purpose it had slanted the offer to pay up to 16.3 per cent in

London to those with the requisite paramedical qualifications. Sir Anthony Grant (Stoke Newington, C) said that he confirmed that the fact that the Secretary of State for Health (Mr Kenneth Clarke) is taking commands the wholehearted support of the Government (cheers and laughter).

Mrs Thatcher: I gladly confirm that.

At the Prime Minister's request at question time a suggestion that she was indifferent to the concerns of distinguished religious and professional groups, saying that there was not enough time for her to see everyone who wanted to meet her.

Mr Peter Archer (Wokingham, Lab) said that Mrs Thatcher had flatly refused to meet two successive presidents of the Methodist Conference who had asked to see her on the issues of the conference.

Was the deep concern of Methodists a matter of such indifference to her as the concerns of other churches, the Royal College of Nursing, the British Medical Association, the Royal Society, the Bar Council, and the Committee of University Vice-Chancellors?

Mrs Thatcher said that she was flattered that everyone wanted to come and see her but there was not enough time for that to take place.

The president had written to her and she had replied fully.

She had pointed out that, despite a complete spending review, a social security benefit and the disabled was rising more than under Labour. This Government had well and truly discharged its duty on social security, towards the people of this country.

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Scottish TUC with me, says Rifkind

The Enterprise and New Towns (Scotland) Bill was described as the single most important legislative measure affecting Scotland by Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, when he moved second reading of the Bill in the Commons.

That description was only his, he said, but also that of the Scottish Trade Union Congress.

Of 420 responses to the Government's White Paper, 403 did not depart from its central recommendations and only 17 had disagreed with the basic principle, proposing the integration of the Training Commission with the Scottish Development Agency and the creation of a new body, Scottish Enterprise.

"It is disappointing, but not surprising, that among that lonely group of 17 was to be found the Opposition, the Labour Party."

The Opposition had support from no other important organization in Scotland; they stood in lonely isolation opposed to the Bill.

"The member for Garscadden (Mr Donald Dewar, Chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland) sits skulking in his tent supported by no other bodies of significance in Scotland."

The TUC had described the Bill as "the most significant institutional reform within the field of training and economic development to be suggested since the establishment of the Manpower Services Commission in 1974 and the Scottish Development Agency in 1975".

There were three important aspects to the Bill, any one of which would be of profound importance to the Scottish economy.

First was the creation of Scottish Enterprise which would be a powerful body with considerable resources.

Then there was the transfer of responsibility for training in Scotland from Sheffield to Edinburgh and from the Department of Employment to the Scottish Office.

Third, many of the responsibilities carried by the Scottish Development Agency or the Training Commission would be delivered in future by new private-sector-led enterprise companies in each of the various regions of Scotland in the Lowlands and the Highlands and Islands.

Integration of training and the development agency in Scottish Enterprise was the central thrust of the Bill. It would be simpler if those seeking business support and training could go to one single body to see what was available.

It was wrong to think of training as other than another form of investment. It was, in fact, a form of investment and, therefore, similar to the work that the development agency and the Highlands and Islands Development Board had been doing.

The training needs of different parts of Scotland differed from one another. The Government was therefore devolving responsibility for such training to the local communities. That was a profound change and had been widely welcomed by both sides of industry in Scotland. Only the Labour Party seemed to oppose it.

There were five new towns in Scotland and the Bill was necessary to bring the new towns programme to its completion. It provided for individual wind-up orders to be made.

The central theme was the devolution or decentralization of responsibility - from Sheffield to Edinburgh, from the Department of Employment to the Scottish Office and from the centre of Scotland to each of the regions and local communities.

He described as "one of the great ironies" the opposition of the Labour Party, which had been drifting on again and again about its belief in devolution.

Mr Donald Dewar, chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland, moved an amendment urging that a second reading should not be given to the Bill "because it fails to provide the right framework for rebuilding the Scottish economy".

Laser gun for Navy defended

A stout defence of the laser guns fitted to Royal Navy Type 22 frigates was put up by Mr Alan Clark, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, during Commons questions.

He was scornful of what he called "off-the-cuff" remarks made about the weapons by Mr Martin O'Neill, Opposition spokesman on defence.

Mr O'Neill asked against whom the laser guns would be deployed and why had these weapons been shrouded in secrecy for so long?

Mr Clark said that it was a disgrace to say that the weapon was "a very dangerous means of protecting ourselves". It was better to have a system which "guarded against trigger happiness" and the sort of experience of the United States when they had shot down an airliner by mistake. The laser was purely defensive.

Parliament today

Art trap for an innocent player

Gennady Zalkowitsch, musician, filmmaker and dealer in Islamic treasures, spent a year in jail for a crime he did not commit. The way he was caught up in a tale of intrigue and double-dealing is bound to send shivers through the art world. William Greaves reports



Rich world: Zalkowitsch as collector and (top) conductor of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

his passport showed he had made many visits to Cairo. Indeed, he had arrived in Cairo on July 13, 1985, the day after the London burglary.

During the two and a half weeks of the trial, however, a series of contradictions and omissions in the prosecution evidence gradually emerged.

Why did Sheikh Abdelaziz first say he exchanged the stolen goods for "a manuscript" and refer to the Persian Koran only after it had been listed in a widely circulated Christie's catalogue? And why did a sheikh refer to a Koran as a "manuscript" when this would be comparable to a Catholic priest referring to the Bible as "a book"?

Points of interest and anomalies also emerged during the case. The gallery's own books, when ordered to be produced by the judge, in many cases revealed major differences between cost prices and insurance valuations, something that Hoare said was regular practice in the art world. Three examples were items bought for \$708, \$750, and \$750 and valued for insurance purposes at \$10,000 each.

For Zalkowitsch to have arrived in Cairo on July 13, the entry date revealed in his passport, the only aircraft he could have caught would have left Heathrow the evening before. Yet it was only at the very end of the trial that it was acknowledged that he would have been airborne several hours before the burglary was committed.

And why would the goods have ever been taken to Cairo in the first place when the smuggling of Islamic art is regarded by the Egyptian government as a crime of such seriousness that it carries automatic sentences of 15 years' imprisonment? And how were they smuggled through an airport whose security officials are renowned for the manner in which they unfailingly examine all incoming suitcases for evidence of such traffic?

By this stage there was a strong suggestion that Cairo had entered the story only because Barakat, alarmed that his possession of

stolen goods had come into the open, badly needed a supplier to "take the rap". Once Zalkowitsch had been selected, then Egypt — which Zalkowitsch had been visiting so frequently in connection with his latest film project — became the obvious location for the "handover".

One factor was vital to the whole construction, however. If Zalkowitsch maintained he had had no dealings with Abdelaziz, how then had he acquired the Safavid Koran that was undoubtedly in his possession at the time of the Christie's sale?

Zalkowitsch's luck had turned. Remarkably, he had bought the critical Koran from a man called Mohammed Sabbah in Paris in the first few weeks of 1984 in front of two witnesses, Brigitte van Meerhaeghe, a French actress, and her assistant. Furthermore, an Englishman with whom Zalkowitsch had stayed was able to swear he had not only seen it in London in the first half of 1984 but had actually looked after it in his house on Zalkowitsch's behalf during those months. And both the Englishman and van Meerhaeghe came forward to testify at the trial.

So, at the last hurdle, the prosecution case had collapsed. After a trial lasting two and a half weeks, the jury returned a unanimous not guilty verdict on all counts.

But just how close had Zalkowitsch come to falling victim of a miscarriage of justice? His defence lawyer, Brian Rose-Smith, believes that even a specialized police art squad probably would have prosecuted. "The danger in cases such as this is to accept the evidence which appears to fit and to turn a blind eye to anything which doesn't," he says.

And did the stolen items ever leave Britain? "Personally, I think they did," Rose-Smith says. "But whether they ever entered Egypt is quite another matter."

Whatever the unsolved mysteries, the end of the affair is on public record. Soon after 2pm on September 19, 1989, Zalkowitsch walked out of Southwark Crown Court No 15 a free man — more than two years after his first arrest.

at 87 in a Christie's sale of Islamic works of art on June 11, 1986, was an exquisitely handwritten and illuminated Koran listed as "Persia, Safavid, circa 1550". And from the moment it appeared in the catalogue, its owner, Russian-born Gennady Zalkowitsch, was launched upon a course that would lead to 10 months in Pentonville prison, awaiting trial for receiving and exporting art treasures stolen from a London gallery in a million-dollar raid in July 1985.

Now, more than four years after the theft, he has been found innocent of any involvement.

Zalkowitsch's story reveals an international trade in Islamic treasures that is studded with secret bank accounts, cash deals between stand-in buyers and sellers, smuggling across closed frontiers and some huge insurance valuations. It is set in London, Jordan, Cairo, Kuwait and Paris and involves two self-confessed Arab smugglers, a plethora of sheikhs and a nephew of the late Shah of Iran — and Zalkowitsch, a man of extravagant international pedigree.

He was born in Krasnodar in the Caucasian Mountains in 1940, taken as a political prisoner by the Germans, along with his father, mother and brother, and incarcerated in a concentration camp at Braunschweig, where his mother was killed. After the war the two brothers and their father remained in Germany until 1949, when they were assisted to emigrate to Brazil.

There the young Gennady learnt the oboe and piano, became an orchestral conductor at the age of 17, and four years later organized Brazil's first Festival of Contemporary Music at Rio's Museum of Modern Art.

In Brazil his talent was recognized by the composer Igor Stravinsky, who arranged for him to study composition with Nadia Boulanger in Paris. There he won a competition to become a student of Herbert von Karajan, the late maestro of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

Three years later, Zalkowitsch embarked on a solo career as musician and, later, independent film-maker and producer.

It was a documentary film about the raft fishermen of Brazil, which Gennady co-produced with his brother for BBC2 in 1981, that was destined to change the direction of his life. "I wanted to make more films about lifestyles in that kind of rapidly disappearing world — but I needed money," he says.

"It was suggested to me that instead of asking private people and institutions for financial backing I could actually make the money for myself."

"I was given the telephone number of the director of the soon-to-be-opened Museum of Kuwait, Sheikh Nasser Al Sabah, and Prince Shahram Pahlavi, a nephew of the Shah of Iran, and was told that Shahram wanted to sell Islamic art treasures and Sheikh Nasser wanted to buy them. I was to work on a commission basis between the two."

Thus Zalkowitsch became involved in the world of Islamic art dealing, first as a go-between and then, as his fortunes improved, as a buyer and seller.

Today, as he tries to pick up the pieces of his career after a year in French and British prisons for a crime he did not commit, he admits he should have learnt his lessons much earlier.

"Sheikh Nasser trusted me totally and gave me enormous cheques for \$400,000 or \$500,000 at a time."

"Often there was no paperwork of any description to prove that I had a right to offer items for sale."

"These are the kind of casual business practices which are to be found everywhere in the trading of Islamic art objects and which were to become so important in my trial."

On the face of it, the case against Zalkowitsch was rock solid. It began in early 1985, when he decided to give his art dealing "one last push" to provide the remaining finance for an ambitious film project in Cairo. The film location was to prove cruelly significant.

Discovering that the Ahuan Gallery in Victoria, London, was getting together an exhibition, "The Unity of Islamic Art", in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, he submitted a number of objects in the hope that they would later be bought. While in Saudi, because of temporary export licence restrictions, the works of art could only be viewed but the organizers hoped that interest in them would be aroused and turned into sales when the exhibition was remounted back at the gallery in London on July 4, 1985.

By that time the gallery had on loan four immensely valuable objects submitted by Zalkowitsch — a Kaaba belt (a silver calligraphic panel on velvet that had once covered the Holy Kaaba at Mecca), a 14th-century Arabic translation of *The Politics of Aristotle*, a 17th-century manuscript entitled *Conquests of Medina*, and a 15th-century calligraphic panel, collectively worth \$235,000.

But on the night of July 12 the gallery's alarm sounded, and when Oliver Hoare, director of Ahuan UK, arrived at the scene in the early hours of the following morning, he found 18 items missing, with a collective insurance valuation of nearly \$1 million.

Six of those items — a section of a 13th-century Moroccan Koran, two other Koran fragments, a prayer on the sword of Ali Ibn Abu Talib, an ancient guide to Mecca and Medina, and another Koran in two volumes by the scribe Muhammad Effendi Mazket — were of vital importance.

For one of them, the Moroccan Koran section, was allegedly offered to Hussein Afshar, an art dealer in Kuwait, in December 1985 by Mustassir Barakat, a Jordanian known to the Ahuan Gallery as a previous client.

If that was true, then how had that stolen Koran found its way from an art gallery in Ecclestone Street, London, to Kuwait? From various statements gathered by

the British police and Interpol — and, until Zalkowitsch's trial, never doubted — an astonishing story of international dealing in stolen items began to emerge.

And this is how it ran. From details of the theft, circulated by the gallery, Afshar recognized the Moroccan Koran section as being one of the stolen works and later passed on the information to David Sultzberger. Hoare's American associate at Ahuan. In response to Sultzberger's inquiries, Barakat said it was one of five pieces — the other four being the two Koran fragments, the sword prayer and the guide to Mecca and Medina — that he had acquired in Cairo.

After three meetings between the two men, Barakat told Sultzberger that he had bought the five items for £10,000 each — together with a sixth piece, the Mazket Koran — from a man called Sheikh Khaled Ahmed Abdelaziz.

Abdelaziz said he had been shown all the pieces by Zalkowitsch in Cairo and had obtained them in exchange for "a manuscript" of comparable value.

Zalkowitsch was arrested in London on July 23, 1986, on suspicion of having handled stolen goods by taking them abroad. He vehemently denied any involvement and was released without charge.

Two months later, after completing a business engagement in Paris, he was again questioned and this time charged. After a week in custody at Wormwood Scrubs, he

From vicious to Vicious

It is odd that a recent correspondent to *The Times* felt the need to boast that he had been playing croquet on New Year's Day. I played a couple of games on Boxing Day, and would have played a couple more on the day after Boxing Day had my younger brothers not viciously beaten me the day before.

"Croquet is the ideal Christmas game: almost as stationary as Monopoly and twice as nasty. With garden flares, a good jersey and a little restraint when requesting the black ball, it can even be played at dead of night, though this multiplies the opportunities for cheating. Indeed, I had planned to be playing it at the stroke of midnight on December 31, and would have done so had my attention not been diverted by the surprise entrance of Miss Kylie Minogue on Clive James's television show."

"Croquet is a game that tends to be played by people who, like myself, dread most other games. It manages to fall outside the prescribed categories of Team Games, Games Involving Mud, Games Demanding a Knowledge of Longest Rivers, Games Colonized by Lionel Blair, Games for Long Car Journeys, Games with Instruction Manuals the Length of Penguin Classics and Games Which Promise "Hilarious Fun for the Young at Heart."

"Only one other game I know manages to avoid all these grisly categories. As it seems to be virtually unknown, I thought I would let readers of *The Times* in on the secret. So few people know



CRAIG BROWN

about it that, as far as I can tell, it has yet to gain an official title, but I call it the Word Game.

The instructions could not be shorter or simpler. While one person keeps time and the score, the other person must name as many words beginning with a given letter as is possible within the space of one minute. And that's it.

Oh, dear, you will no doubt be muttering to yourself, that sounds hideously boring. But it isn't. As I blurt and bellow the words out at breakneck speed — book, bread, bind, binding, bound, ban, banning, band, business, busy, bee, blank, bank, bar, bartender, barter, bash, bashing, bashes, bashed, blooming, boast, baste — my brain whirrs and bleeps at such an intensity that time itself seems to expand within my head, every tongue-tied pause seeming to last half an hour, every smooth sequence (blank, bank, bar, bartender, barter, bash) carrying with it its own satisfying rhythm and logic, those 60 seconds managing to contain all the drama, misery,

joy, and pressure that are more normally obtainable only over periods of five years or more.

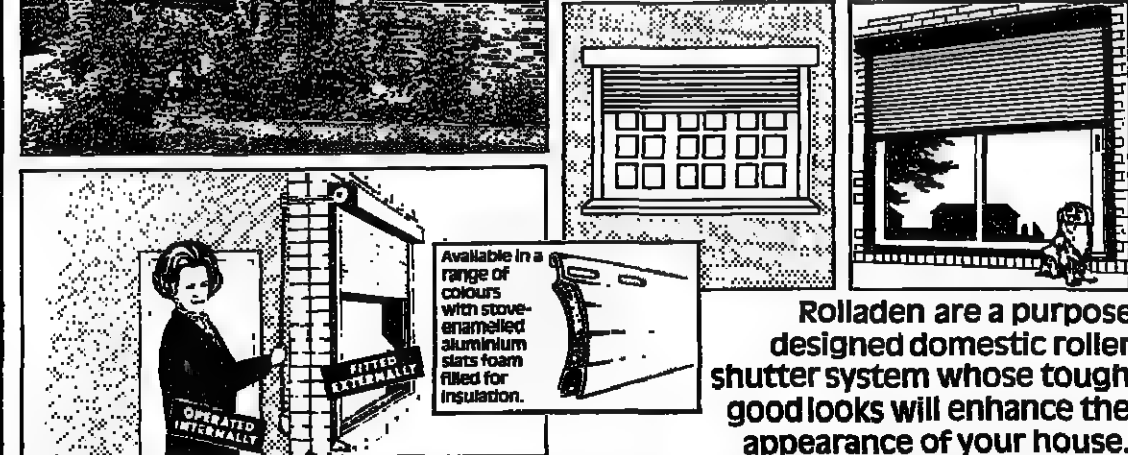
It is also, in a discreet, trouble-free way, a Truth Game. The extremely short time limit disallows self-censorship, so that one's preoccupations surface whether one likes it or not. I feel sure that the genuine example given above of my own recent go at the letter "B" (blank-bank-bartender-barter-bash) amounts to a handy summary of goings-on recognizable to all but the most placid of freelance writers.

For a beginner, a score of 18 words in a minute is commendable, but after you have played the game a few times you should be reaching the lower thirties. Having grasped every opportunity to play the game over the past 10 years, I have just managed to reach 60, though my friend Napier Miles, with whom one session lasted so long that by the end the same letters were coming round for the third time, has achieved 67. The secret is to go for the verbs, and to extract every last drop from each one — for example, bank, banks, banking, banker, banked, bankable, and so on.

Those who would prefer a less abstract version can play the same game but with a given subject instead of a letter, such as Actors with Moustaches or Deposed Dictators. As a purist I prefer the standard version, although I modestly admit to having once attained no fewer than 34 Dead Rock Stars in 60 seconds, a feat aided by the then-recent death of Sid Vicious.

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TIMES DIARY

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Conservative MP Robert Adley was surprised to receive in his post before Christmas a bottle of champagne and a video from the quarrying division of the construction firm, Tarmac. The video went straight into the bin. A bottle of bubbly is a more serious proposition. He gave it to the clerks in the Government whips' office. But Adley did not leave the matter there. What favour and influence was being sought — and could it have anything to do with Department of Transport contracts to build new roads? He wrote to Tarmac suggesting there must have been some mistake, but that, anyway, he didn't want their gift. Back came a tart reply from Jack Mawdsley, Tarmac's chief executive, saying that "many hundreds" had responded favourably to the presentation and only two, Adley and Labour's Dennis Skinner, had objected. "What a strange alliance," Mawdsley added. Not at all, says Adley. "Dennis Skinner and I entered Parliament on the same day nearly 20 years ago and although we are poles apart politically, it is not the first time we have joined forces in debunking people with inflated views of their own importance." And for future reference, Adley tells me, if anyone wants to buy him, he costs a lot more than a bottle of champagne.

Great parliamentary answers of our time... In a written question on Monday, Labour MP Alan Wynne Williams asked the Chancellor if he would make a statement on interest rates. Back came the reply on John Major's behalf from junior minister Richard Ryder: "The bank base rate is 15 per cent." Very helpful.

Michael Spicer, promoted last week to fill the slot vacated by Michael Howard as the Department of the Environment, is a minister very much in demand. Although his name was to be found this week on DoE written parliamentary answers, and he appeared briefly in the Marsham Street office on Monday, he cannot formally take up his new post until next week, nearly a fortnight after the announcement of his appointment. John Wakeham, the Energy Secretary, has decided that Spicer is indispensable in his old job as a junior energy minister, so Spicer was still in Committee Room 11 yesterday seeing the Coal Industry Bill through its committee stage and will be there again tomorrow. Wakeham sources tell me that in their experience Spicer's dual ministerial role is unique.

BARRY FANTONI



"It wasn't half as bad as what Neville said when he learned he'd moved it"

Des Wilson and his fellow campaigners who yesterday launched their Parents Against Tobacco campaign are optimistic that their pleas for tougher action by the Department of Health to keep children away from cigarettes will not fall on deaf ears. The minister responsible for enforcing the regulations which forbid shopkeepers to sell cigarettes to under-16s — a law which, it is claimed, is breached by one in two tobacconists — is Virginia Bottomley. As a backbencher on January 31, 1986, she told the Commons: "For too long children have been able to buy cigarettes. Parents and shopkeepers have not been vigilant. It is a matter not only of legislation but of enforcement." Quite so. And in case Mrs Bottomley has since been bitten by the Government's deregulationist bug, the considerate Wilson has sent her a copy of her words to remind her.

It will not be long, I predict, before Nigel Lawson is fixed up with a top City job. I learn that offers are flying thick and fast. City rumour suggests that Lazard, the merchant bank, is keen to continue the tradition begun by Sir John Nott of having a former cabinet minister as chairman. A second whisper says that BZW, the merchant banking division of Barclays, would like him to succeed its chairman, Sir Martin Jacobson, a long-time Lawson friend and adviser, whose contract runs out in June. Meanwhile, there is still no sign that Lawson is ready to produce the book for which the publishers are offering a small fortune, although literary agents hope that the appearance of what threatens to be a no-holds-barred tome from former Downing Street adviser Sir Alan Walters in April may sting the former chancellor into action.

"It may be a little painful at first," said my lovely dentist, Iona, and she began my root canal treatment by sticking a hypodermic needle straight into the roof of my mouth.

Still with me? Good. Breathe deeply, play soothing music. No, I didn't know you could stick needles there either, but then you do discover things at the dentist's, including the capacity to endure little bits of wire being twiddled about up your teeth. Not that one feels anything, of course, except, perhaps, what it's like to have one's mandibles scoured out with a dynamo rod.

"I have all my own teeth," says some plucky pensioner, baring yellow chompers of excessive length and glossiness thanks to a lifetime eating carpet and other British delicacies. Well, good for you, dearie, so have I; though rather too many of them are now

Japanese prime ministers, like Japanese tourists, seem reconciled to their overseas trips becoming whistle-stop tours crammed in between more pressing business at home. The current Japanese prime minister, Toshiki Kaifu, is no exception. He arrives in London tomorrow in the course of an eight-nation, 10-day tour of Western and Eastern Europe; typically, he will be here for less than 24 hours.

For more than a year Japan has been suffering from diplomatic inactivity and, at times, near-paralysis in policy-making. First the prolonged illness and death of Emperor Hirohito, then the debilitating financial and sex scandals which led to unprecedented electoral setbacks for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) have made the Japanese more inward-looking and less self-confident.

After cautiously feeling his way since last August, when he became his country's third prime minister in as many months, Kaifu now wishes to demonstrate Japanese re-engagement in international affairs.

Last September he made the obligatory pilgrimage to Washington to pay his respects to the US president. Now, with the question of West European integration and the disintegration of Eastern Europe at the centre of

Japanese, and world, attention, Europe easily became the logical choice for his second overseas trip.

For much of the 1980s the West European countries were seen by the Japanese as incapable of adjusting their economies to the challenges of the high technology era, but over the last couple of years that perception has changed under the impetus of the EC's 1992 single market. The resurgence in European business confidence and activity in the run-up to 1992 has attracted increasing numbers of Japanese traders and, more significantly, investors.

However, while Kaifu may be preaching to the converted when he meets Mrs Thatcher, not all Europeans share her enthusiasm for industrial collaboration with the Japanese, and she, too, endorses the general European dissatisfaction with the persistent trade imbalance with Japan. Kaifu, already beleaguered by US pressure, will find it hard to persuade his European hosts that

Japan really is becoming the "import superpower" he so glibly promised in the early days of his premiership. During his visits to five EC countries, he will lobby against those within the EC who might want to use the 1992 process to settle old scores with Japan.

Kaifu clearly wants to move the focus of his talks with West European leaders towards areas of potential co-operation, such as developmental assistance to the Third World, international environmental protection, and political and strategic consultation — especially relations with the two superpowers following the dramatic change in East-West relations. Kaifu will be treading new ground in going to Poland and Hungary later this week, the first Japanese prime minister to do so.

Japan has always felt rather ambivalent about its role as a member of the Western club, for its American and European partners expect it not only to abide by the rules but to pay the

membership fees. Consequently, there have been frequent calls in recent years for Japan to play a political role in international affairs equivalent to its economic strength. In foreign aid, Japan has responded by gradually eschewing its own commercial imperatives and concentrating more on countries and regions important not just to Japan but to the West as a whole.

The new Japanese aid commitments to Eastern Europe, which Kaifu will formally announce during his visit, need to be seen in those terms too. The Japanese naturally do not feel that East European political and economic stability is of such direct importance to them as to Western Europe and the US, but precisely for that reason it is an interesting test case of how far the Japanese rhetoric of the "indivisibility of Western security" is put into practice. Until the last few months, Japanese interest in Eastern Europe — as opposed to the Soviet Union itself — had been very limited.

Fifteen per cent of total Japanese trade is with the EC, with Eastern Europe, less than 0.5 per cent. Investment has been minimal; a handful of small joint ventures in Hungary, none at all with Poland until two weeks ago. Japanese companies see little profit to be made in the domestic markets of Eastern Europe, though some, with an eye to the developing EC-East European relationship, see some potential for using these countries as a back-door to the post-1992 EC.

If Japanese companies are, for the moment, adopting a wait-and-see attitude, then the onus falls on the Japanese government to take a lead. It will probably do so, but, as has happened so often in the past, one step behind its European and American allies.

Kaifu's visit to Eastern Europe, therefore, has more symbolism than substance. Regrettably, despite a genuine desire within the Japanese Foreign Ministry to deepen the relationship with Europe, his hectic

schedule means that much the same can be said about the West European part of the tour as well. Indeed, with Kaifu and his ruling LDP soon facing a crucial election for the Lower House, the timing and scope of the whole trip suggests that the need to impress the voters back home with an image of international statesmanship is still paramount.

Kaifu's ill-starred predecessor, Sosuke Uno, visited Europe in July 1989 to attend the Paris summit; he was given the cold shoulder and a few weeks later led his party to its worst-ever results in Upper House elections. By keeping his head down and avoiding trouble, Kaifu has slowly and quietly restored some of the LDP's standing. He must be hoping that his European tour will have a much more positive effect than his predecessor's did on his party's, and his own, political future.

Unfortunately for the West, neither of the most likely election results — a slim majority for either the LDP or for a coalition opposition — will encourage the Japanese speedily to shake off their intervention in the international arena. The author was formerly head of the East Asia Programme at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House.

Roger Boyes reports on the resurgent nationalism threatening East European stability

Old canker eating at new freedom

The collapse of communist rule in Eastern Europe has left a void which nationalism is all too ready to fill. Frontiers are already being challenged, and as a pluralistic political system evolves, so nationalist voices — repressed first under the Nazis and then under Soviet-inspired rule — are becoming louder and more strident.

When, in 1917-1918, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia and Turkey crumbled, there was a scramble to snatch parts of the disintegrating empires and to establish new nation-states. The new order was determined at Versailles by President Woodrow Wilson and the leaders of Britain and France. But in the confusion of shifting frontiers, much depended on military power. Poland's Marshal Pilsudski tried to seize Lithuania and part of the Ukraine to re-establish the old Jagiellonian Empire. Under the 1920 Treaty of Trianon, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia took slices of Hungary, Czechs and Slovaks were brought together in an uncomfortable ménage. Yugoslavia became a federation of southern Slavs constructed around the Kingdom of Serbia.

Most of the post-communist states want to introduce a free market, or some variant of welfare capitalism, but have failing or stagnant industrial output, outdated machinery and low investment ratios. At the same time, they want political pluralism, parliamentary democracy and a free press. That is difficult but, with imagination, it can be done.

The third strand of the 1989

revolutions though is emotional, the quest for national self-determination. It is this, the nationalist element, which will burden the young post-communist governments: the passions are running fierce from Berlin to Bessarabia. The ethnic and national differences which sprang from the debris of the old empires have never been resolved, and now that communism has failed as a colonial system, the newly democratizing countries are reaching back into their past. There is a feeling throughout Eastern Europe that, as accidents of history, many people are living in the wrong place, separated from their spiritual home.

How is post-Ceausescu Romania, for example, to cope with this pressure? At the moment, the Romanian leadership displays a soft glow of tolerance (except towards gypsies, the traditional scapegoat of Eastern Europe), but this will probably not last long.

A pessimistic, but quite probable scenario for Romania in the coming months is that the new authorities will try to slow down the pace of the revolution. The students will grow impatient and take to the streets. The shops, artificially filled with food that should have been exported, will empty again, and the workers will be radicalized. The support of the army will become more ambiguous, and suddenly someone will play the popular nationalist card.

The fledgling democracy has already been encouraging secessionist demands in Soviet Moldavia, which Romania was forced

by Moscow to hand over in 1940. Despite mass deportation of Romanians by Stalin, two-thirds of the people in Moldavia are ethnic Romanians.

During the Ceausescu era, they were understandably reluctant to return to the motherland. Now intellectuals (especially, for some specifically Balkan reason, poets) have constructed a joint action committee linking Bucharest with the Moldavian capital, Kishinev. They are demanding from Gorbachev at least an open Soviet-Romanian border, but if Moscow gives way on this, secessionist movements throughout the western regions of the Soviet Union will press for similar concessions.

Romania's revolutionary government came to power after an uprising in Transylvania, where Ceausescu made crude attempts at Romanizing the Hungarian and German minorities (bringing him to the brink of war with Hungary). The new government says it will guarantee the rights of ethnic Hungarians and Germans still living there. But privileges are being demanded for the ethnic Hungarians. This could lead to trouble now that Romanians and Hungarians are no longer united in their suffering.

In Bulgaria, the Todor Zhivkov regime expelled at short notice several hundred thousand ethnic Turks after failing to "Bulgarize" them. This programme included attempts to force Turks to change their names to ones that sound more Bulgarian and to close mosques and Turkish-language schools. When Zhivkov was toppled, in November, the new leadership pledged to make life easier for the Turkish minority, and about



100,000 returned to Bulgaria. But many party officials in the provinces have not accepted the newly ordained liberalization, and are treating the Turks as badly as ever. Southern Bulgaria is the scene of constant clashes and demonstrations. Even members of the anti-communist opposition are joining in the demonstrations, shouting "Bulgaria for the Bulgarians."

As Bonn takes on a major financial share in the democratic restructuring of Eastern Europe, so the importance of German minorities has become more apparent. For decades, Poland has minimized the significance of the Silesian Germans. Now, as a condition of West German aid to Poland, the ethnic Germans are to be allowed their own newspapers and religious services. A modest enough step, one might think, but many recall

how Hitler manipulated German minorities in Czechoslovakia (in the Sudetenland) and in Poland before the war.

Moreover, there is a widespread fear in Poland that West German companies will start to buy back the land and properties they lost after the Second World War or start new companies. This will give the economy a vital boost, but if they are to escape serious friction, the Germans will have to display considerable political sensitivity. The Polish Communist Party has already tried to stir up the issue: it would like to present itself as the party of true, patriotic Poles at a time when a Solidarity government is internationalizing the economy.

East Germans and Poles are also at loggerheads. In many East German shops signs in Polish have been put up announcing: "Only German customers served." Polish traders, buying in bulk in cheap East German shops, have become scapegoats for the empty shelves. But to the Poles, such treatment smacks of the Nazis.

Central and Eastern Europe is a crowded place. There are well over 150 million people rubbing shoulders, jabbing each other in the ribs. But much has been learnt during the past 50 years, and national antagonisms — between Czechs and Slovaks, for instance — is not as fierce as it was. But the revolutions of 1989, the overwhelming force of "people power" against a fatigued and defunct system, have created multiple and probably irreconcilable demands.

Nobody, least of all the Soviet Union, has found an answer. Blood is spilt, tanks appear on the streets, martyrs are made. In Bucharest a friend who can now talk openly to me gripped my arm and hissed: "We must be careful — here is the tinder of a European war."

Balkan bombast? Perhaps. But there is a dull pulse of anxiety in Eastern Europe.

Labour's half-hearted step to a Bill of Rights

Julia Neuberger finds its proposed charter partisan and full of holes

In his speech to the Fabians at Oxford last Saturday, Roy Hattersley presented what he described as a Charter of Rights to be introduced by a future Labour government. However, he was strongly opposed to the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. This convention, which Britain ratified in 1952, has 14 articles guaranteeing far wider rights and freedoms than those in Labour's proposed legislation.

Labour has always been against the convention, as is shown by the Cabinet papers of the post-war years when it was drawn up. The measure was strongly opposed by Labour's then Lord Chancellor, the Colonial Secretary, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

They could not bear the idea of European Court of Human Rights jurisdiction when individuals or groups petitioned over alleged UK breaches of the convention. They were also worried that the convention would impede nationalization and other Labour policies.

Forty years on, the Labour leaders' attitude is just as reactionary. Instead of pledging themselves to take the obvious, easy and speedy step of incorporating the European Convention into British law, they have gone for a cumbersome, lengthy and difficult set of proposed Bills, the so-called "charter", which would protect only a few of the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed by the European Convention and would take a great deal of parliamentary time to achieve.

Labour's argument against incorporating the European Convention as at least part of a Bill of Rights is twofold. First, it means trusting the judiciary to interpret the Bill of Rights in an appropriate way. Second, and more important, it means protecting rights with which parts of the Labour Party are out of sympathy. It would almost certainly protect the public schools, for instance, and the rights of people who have bought

shares in the privatized industries, such as British Gas and British Telecom, to fair compensation if they are ever re-nationalized.

This is a dangerous line for Labour to follow. For a start, its selective approach would exclude a broad range of rights which most Labour supporters would like the law clearly to uphold, such as trade union rights and free speech for newspapers and broadcasting. And though few votes may be won by supporting rights for unpopular groups, such as prisoners, there is a strong moral argument for doing so. All these are covered under the European Convention; none is mentioned in the Labour charter.

Furthermore, a partisan approach means that Labour's Charter of Rights can never be seen as being truly above party, and therefore capable of effective enforcement. However, a true Bill of Rights, incorporating the European Convention, would

provide not only a clear statement of principle: it would protect individuals and minorities from majorities, including elected majorities, because there would be effective domestic remedies for the ordinary citizen in the domestic courts if any breach occurred.

One would expect the left to lead the way on this issue, particularly because younger people feel more and more strongly about it. Yet Messrs Hattersley and Kinnoch are at one with Mrs Thatcher in opposing such a measure because of the limitation of parliamentary power that it implies.

The Labour proposals for strengthening our race and gender discrimination legislation are important, but do not amount to a comprehensive Charter of Rights. Nor does the institution of a Freedom of Information Act, to replace the Official Secrets Act. Such a measure is undoubtedly necessary; the onus must be on

government to prove that it is in the national interest to restrict access to information about government actions and policies which rightly belongs in the public domain. But that is only one small part of the right to free expression enshrined in the European Convention.

It is not, however, only the incompleteness and partisan quality of the proposed Charter of Rights that is so objectionable. Labour also wants a new elected second chamber, from the regions, instead of the House of Lords. That would almost certainly mean an inbuilt Labour majority in the second house, which would, in the new dispensation, be able to delay legislation that went against these "rights" for five years. It would also take considerable time to establish the system, while incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights would be a comparatively simple and speedy matter.

The truth of the matter is that,

despite the change of heart among young Labour supporters, the party leaders are not serious about rights. They do not want to see the European Convention incorporated into British law and do not trust the judges sufficiently to let them act as checks and balances on the legislature and the executive. This mistrust is strange, since judges throughout Europe have been filling this role for decades; our own judges in this respect have a perfectly good record — for instance, the Lord of Lords sitting in the Privy Council interpret Bills of Rights for the 12 Caribbean Commonwealth democracies and Mauritius.

Labour does not share the progressive approach of other European socialists to these matters, and so all it has done is produce a piecemeal set of reforms which will do nothing to convince the ordinary citizen that there is protection in law against possible abuses of rights by the government, of whatever political hue.

Robbi Neuberger was a founder member of Charter 88.

Jut-setter in the dentist's chair

anchored in their sockets with kedge, grapple and baling twine. It must be my healthy diet. But this was not why Miss Helen Taylor BDS, MScD, D.Oth, M.Oth, FDS RCS (Eng), wrote to me. She lectures in dentistry and had been watching Smith and Jones carefully for source material. "It so happens that both of you present in profile a minor relative imbalance between the upper and lower jaws, such that the lower jaw appears more prominent," she wrote.

Well, I shall have to abandon the line whenever I am interviewed that Smith and I have nothing in common. If Miss Taylor's diagnosis gets around,

subscribers to My Weekly will read that one of us has a high-angle mandibular prognathism and the other has a low-angle maxillary hypoplasia, which are different ways of saying that we both have the same neanderthal bite. Our bottom set of gnashers projects beyond our top set.



GRIFF
RHYS JONES

nish me with a designer bite. I was wired up. Pieces of metal were hammered on to every spare dentition. I had a plastic plate in my mouth and a couple of tiny rubber bands hooked from the

front of my bottom set of teeth to the back of my top set. At night I wore what appeared to be Victorian underwear strapped to my head: elasticated garters with metal grommets hooked over prongs glued to my incisors. It was a mistake to eat certain foods: foolhardy, like throwing coffee into a steam engine. I had a smile like the front of a mechanical excavator.

The trainee dentists would take the sweetest little spanners to the tiniest little nuts and tighten them the minutest fractions. This caused the hugest pain. One day the consultant interrupted them in mid-crank and peered at me solemnly. "I think it's heredi-

tary," he said. He meant that they were fighting my genes, and my genes were winning. "Take this lot off!" I wiped away a grateful tear. Then he looked down at my chin. "I suggest we slice a section out of the lower jaw on both sides and push the whole lot back half an inch."

I was out in the Gray's Inn Road with my mouth still wide open before you could say "Ahh." Naturally I went nowhere near the dentist for the next 15 years. That is why I'm losing all my teeth now. In a while my lower gums will stick out beyond my upper gums. I can still gnash. In the event of social congress, I can bare my

teeth to indicate affability. But to the professional eye, I am deformed. Luckily, Miss Taylor was not a frowning work.

"I am writing to ask if you would permit me to show a slide of the pair of you in classic head-to-head pose as part of the introduction to one of my lectures."

The slide has been furnished. Glaswegian orthodontic students will look upon our jaws and turn to their spanners and braces with renewed vigour. And why? Because they will see that their skill might save someone from having to prostitute their facial abnormalities in a grotesque television freak show, that's why.

No, no, spare me your thanks. "It was nothing," I say. Well, actually, I say "It was nothing", but that's because I have a peculiar bite. I must do something about it some day.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MOTORWAY SANITY

The horrific crash in thick fog on the M25 on Monday night has been followed by the now traditional warnings to motorists that speed, fog, and motorways make a potentially fatal combination. The tendency to go too fast in fog is a phenomenon the police have labelled "motorway madness," a phrase which has passed into the vernacular.

While all such warnings are timely, and it is of course true that the safety of motorways depends on the discipline and skill of those who use them, there is another danger — that of fatalistic acceptance of the inevitability of serious crashes in fog — which represents another form of madness. It is as if every time there was serious fog, people would expect to hear, almost as a matter of course, that an aircraft or two had crashed on landing at Heathrow, or a few trains had collided head-on. In fact the public would not tolerate it. If airports were not safe in fog, it would demand that they be closed until visibility was clear again. And that in effect is what happens.

Perhaps, therefore, the time has come for a different approach on the roads. The very phrase "motorway madness" implies that the only real solution lies in encouraging more responsible behaviour on the roads, as if the only issue was driver culpability. But it is false logic to assume that as soon as a motorist sees fog he abandons his usual caution and decides deliberately to run a much higher degree of risk than he otherwise would. It is more likely that he tries unconsciously to adjust to the greater risk as he understands it, but calculates it wrongly. The task, therefore, is to make such calculations of risk by individual drivers more realistic and accurate.

This is a problem of communication and design, which is to some extent already being recognized. In theory at least it ought to be open to technological solutions. The section of motorway where Monday's collision happened was due to be equipped by this winter with a sophisticated fog warning system controlled by computer, but unfortunately the system was not ready in time. Its purpose is to emphasize to drivers that they are driving in fog, which at first sight might seem obvious; but experience has taught that such warnings are necessary and indeed are effective.

Such measures work by penetrating the false sense of security which is a feature of motorway driving and one of the primary causes of accidents. They alert a driver to the fact that his normal automatic and almost unconscious responses are not likely to be good enough in certain unusual conditions. The same is true of the tactic the police sometimes adopt, of patrolling fog-bound roads intensively (and at a safe speed) with their blue flashing lights switched on.

The distance between vehicles has been identified as a crucial factor in motorway safety, never more critically so than in fog. Some thought has already been given to various measures, including the French practice of special road markings. This works by improving the quality of the information fed to the driver and by offering it early enough to allow him to leave the motorway before meeting the hazard.

It is not beyond the possibilities of the technology now available to design automatic sensors capable of measuring the distance from the vehicle in front, or sensors capable of measuring the density of fog, either attached to the car or installed at the roadside. These would give the driver the additional information he seems to lack; conceivably they could even be designed to over-ride his judgement if he ignored them. Undoubtedly if aircraft were regularly colliding in the air in fog, it is to some such technological remedies that aircraft operators would be forced to turn. This approach is already incorporated in railway signalling systems — if a locomotive driver passes a signal at red the train brakes are applied automatically.

Such technologies are bound to be expensive. But they should not be rejected just because they would reduce the comfortable sense of autonomy of the man at the wheel. Without such a new approach, few things are more inevitable than that there will be another dozen or so serious multiple motorway accidents in fog by the end of the century. The question is whether the community should continue to regard this frightening prospect as tolerable; or whether the time has come to design motorway madness out of the system, even if the cost of doing so is high.

MR HURD'S BALANCING ACT

Mr Douglas Hurd's speech on Europe yesterday made some progress towards reconciling the divisions within the Tory Party on policy towards the Community. His balancing act consisted of stressing the "fundamental" significance of changes in Eastern Europe for the future evolution of the Community, (the Prime Minister's favourite theme), while emphasizing that the dismantling of the Iron Curtain strengthened the validity of the Community rather than undermining it.

A change in tone may not, however, be enough to reassure Britain's dispirited posse of MEPs who are to meet Mrs Thatcher on January 24. The order of priorities Mr Hurd set out for the Community in 1990 betrays, perhaps, where the heart lies: help for Eastern Europe came first, followed by pressing ahead with the 1992 Single Market; "practical and substantial debate" on monetary union came third. Yet that is where the heart of the controversy has come to lie: EMU has become shorthand for the debate over sovereignty.

Mr Hurd's speech provides some pointers to the spirit in which the Government will approach the inter-governmental conference on monetary union. The point to grasp, according to Mr Hurd, "is that we are arguing about the nature of economic and monetary union not the fact". While in substance that represents no advance on policy agreed since the EC summit in Madrid last summer, it indicates the Government's acceptance that the debate on EMU cannot be delayed.

The British position remains that EMU can only be realized after completion of the Single Market, including the dismantling of exchange controls and free trade in financial services. But the Foreign Secretary's tone was decidedly positive, even optimistic, in his prediction that progress to a "single financial area" in 1993 was of course. And, in an apparent departure from British opposition at Strasbourg to the decision to convene the conference this year, he acknowledged that it makes sense to start

mapping out "practical detail". The end result, however, must still be "compatible with the national traditions of member states" — no sign there of accepting the budgetary corset of the Delors plan. Community decisions must be taken in the context of securing the stability of Europe as a whole.

The double entendre in the Foreign Secretary's welcome for the rediscovery in Eastern Europe of the pleasures of singing in harmony rather than union, and the prospect this offered for a "concert of Europe", will not be lost on Brussels. Nor, perhaps, will the importance the Foreign Secretary attached to American involvement in European affairs — an emphasis not wholly attributable to the nature of his audience.

His speech was addressed to the annual joint conference of members of the European Parliament and US Congressmen. Mr Hurd used the occasion to give enthusiastic endorsement to President Bush's new strategy of asserting a strong US interest in what it has termed the "new architecture" of Europe.

Setting out that strategy last month, the US Secretary of State, Mr James Baker, called for institutional links with the European Community, possibly even taking the form of a treaty. A treaty may not be the best approach, and Mr Hurd yesterday indicated a preference for closer practical co-operation rather than a formal framework. He lent unequivocal support, however, to the broader US objective of ensuring that measures to achieve European integration "bridge the Atlantic Ocean".

That is an issue which ought to transcend arguments over the "special" status of the Anglo-US relationship, or its compatibility with British commitment to the Community. The difficulty of adapting all Western institutions to change in Eastern Europe cannot be underestimated. It is, as he said, a challenge which Europe and the US must meet "shoulder to shoulder".

ROARING LIKE ANY LION

The House of Commons Select Committee on Agriculture demanded yesterday that all British eggs should be allowed to carry a stamp indicating their country of origin — in effect the return of the "little lion" mark on eggs. At first sight that amounts to no more than a storm in an egg cup.

Existing British and European regulations already allow egg boxes to state the country from which they come, and the Ministry of Agriculture is encouraging British egg producers to take advantage of that permission. But even if the committee's point is somewhat half-baked, they have in making it drawn attention to a serious result of the great salmonella egg crisis of last year. Now, at last, British eggs are best. Mrs Edwina Currie could hardly hope for a more satisfying memorial to her efforts.

From over-slackness, the British egg producing industry and the regulations governing its product safety have now swung to the other extreme. Britain is the only country in Europe with such a draconian poultry slaughtering policy — so severe that last year it drove protesting nuns into their hen-coops out of solidarity with their condemned chickens. If solidarity with their condemned chickens, if just one bird is found to be infected with salmonella, the whole flock has to be destroyed.

The evidence suggests that the chance of salmonella infection from an egg is now significantly higher if that egg hails from foreign parts. MPs are well aware that one egg looks much like another, and suggest discrimination against aliens should be made easier by identifying each one. They obviously have a certain preference for the soft-boiled egg

intact in its shell, for they have no suggestions for labelling the scrambled or fried variety.

If Common Market eggs upset British stomachs, they deserve the worst that can happen to them — which is to remain in the shops in their boxes, unbought and uneaten. Having put their domestic hen-houses in order, the British are entitled to demand no less from the egg importers. And there is no better lever than a market force to make them comply. First, however, the public has to be taught to tell one from the other. Clear labelling on boxes and a modest degree of publicity for the facts should be all that is necessary.

Foreign eggs cannot be banned by law from British shops without inviting the wrath of Brussels, but they can easily be banned by the action of the British housewife operating out of British kitchens. Foreign egg producers will quickly enough be clamouring for the introduction of uniform and stricter safeguards against salmonella once they discover the foreignness of their eggs has been rumoured, and is rapidly becoming a stigma against sales.

To the publicity necessary for this desirable outcome, the select committee has added its useful halfpence by its suggestion — a curate's egg, perhaps — that every British egg should wear a patriotic badge. Neither the ministry nor the industry jumped at the idea yesterday, and it would require an amendment to European egg regulations. The result of that would hardly be worth the effort, but the point is sufficiently controversial in its harmless way to generate attention for the wider issue.

How to attract ablest youth

From the Master of Churchill College, Cambridge

Sir, Mr David Davis, MP, in your issue of January 4, states a number of facts, but his drawing of conclusions is more debatable.

In our free market for choosing a job and, before that, for choosing a subject to read at university, pull is always far more effective than push. There are two main characteristics by which an employer can attract able young people — viz, by offering them a good chance of soon carrying real responsibility, and by a good salary.

City institutions and several major industrial companies know this, and generally get all the competent and ambitious young graduates they want; many companies who do not offer such jobs at such salaries deservedly do not so succeed. It is absurd to think that by making a career in pure science less possible we can drive young graduates to industrial companies who do not know how to use them or how to pay them properly.

I wish industry and commerce the best of luck in learning how to attract our ablest young people. If they are so successful that, as a result, fewer excellent young people become academics, I will grin and bear it.

But that is very different from first, and with intent, reducing opportunities in pure science in the vague but surely forlorn hope that as a result good graduates will accept industrial jobs offering little scope and less money. They have plenty of other outlets, here and abroad.

Yours faithfully,
HERMANN BONDI,
Churchill College, Cambridge.
January 6.

From Viscount St David's
Sir, I agree with David Davis that British research into saleable technology is being held back by the insistence that all funding of research shall be in directions which have no visible saleable product in view.

Some four years ago I met Cedric Lynch, a young genius inventor, who had produced a radical flat-disc electric motor of 90 per cent efficiency, very much needed by our Green revolution. He was unable to get funds because it had a commercial use.

I helped to finance him and the result has already been a motor which has won all the electric road races, the only electric boat race so far held, and also the world speed record for electric boats — a clear win for Britain, as well as being a motor which can serve many other purposes. Is a motor of 90 per cent efficiency not important to our Green revolution, against the usual 65-75 per cent motors? Industry needs it!

Two of our motors, one mounted as an outboard, are on display on the Amateur Yacht Research Society's stand at the Boat Show, with a push-button attached to a one and a half-volt electric torch cell, so that you can powerfully turn a motor able to drive a 70-foot steel canal boat. Fions, Countess of Arran's electric speed boat, with our motors, is also displayed afloat on the pool.

We could get no help, and have had none, apart from London Innovation, a private enterprise survivor of the old GLC, and my idiotic self.

Yours faithfully,
ST DAVIDS (Director),
Electro Marine Technology Ltd.,
PO Box 919,
Loffing Road, NI.

Two-tier pricing

From Mr John Venn

Sir, I do very much hope that the Office of Fair Trading does not take up Mr Laurie's call (January 2) for shops to offer a cash discount instead of charging credit card users, once two-tier pricing is permitted.

If retailers give a discount to cash customers in addition, of course, to paying the commission on credit card sales, their cost will obviously rise — in our case by an amount equivalent to more than 15 per cent of our net profit.

As retailers tend to work to price points, it is likely that many items would be increased by more than the exact amount necessary to offset the cash discount. The effect of Mr Laurie's proposal is therefore likely to be inflationary. To charge a fee to credit card users would, on the contrary, reduce costs, and thus keep prices down.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. VENN,
The Bazaar,
1, Eastgate Square,
Chichester, West Sussex.

'Political' advice

From Sir Frederick Bishop

Sir, Your correspondent David Walker, writing (Whitehall Brief, January 2) in connection with the release of Cabinet papers for 1959, says that as then the Prime Minister's private secretary I expressed cogent views about "political" questions, for example in a memorandum on Government support for civil research and development.

Needless to say, I have no recollection of this particular bit of paper; in those days (to use the Paycock's phrase) I had to "run hundreds of dockments through me" — but I hope that any views I then expressed were indeed cogent; it would have been feeble to express views that were not!

The question, as Mr Walker

Speeding up the wheels of justice

From the Head of Court Services, Lord Chancellor's Department

Sir, Godfrey C. Honnywill's letter (January 3) contains a number of statements about the courts which do not properly reflect the present position.

He maintains that both criminal and civil courts are subject to delays unthinkable 10 years ago and that criminal trials take place years after the event. So far as the courts are concerned, the average waiting time between commitment to the court and trial is now about 10 weeks for cases where the defendant is in custody and 12 weeks when on bail.

In some areas the average for crown court custody cases is less than eight weeks, and in London, where over the years waiting times have been longer than elsewhere, the current waiting time is lower than at any time during the last eight years. These figures have been achieved during a period when the number of crown court cases received has increased from 73,811 in 1983-84 to 104,438 in the year ended March 31, 1989.

Mr Honnywill suggests that a letter written to Bromley County Court will almost certainly not be

read for two months. In fact letters received at that court are opened and read on the day of receipt by section managers. Urgent business is given priority and dealt with quickly but replies to some less urgent letters have been delayed.

Mr Honnywill also alleges frequent delays of 12 months in the payment of legal-aid fees due to the shortage of staff to assess the bills of costs. I assume he is referring to crown court costs as these are assessed by court staff. In the first half of the current financial year 77 per cent of all legal-aid claims by solicitors for crown court proceedings were assessed by crown court staff and paid within 28 days of receipt.

A total of 95 per cent of all crown court claims, within the same period, were assessed and paid within three months of receipt. The remaining 5 per cent fall within the small group of exceptional cases in terms of length of hearing and complexity. Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND POTTER,
Head of Court Services,
Lord Chancellor's Department,
Trevelyan House,
Great Peter Street, SW1,
January 5.

Juries in fraud trials

From Dr Paul Robertshaw

Sir, It is clear from reading your distinguished correspondents (December 8, 15, 27; January 1) that there is a serious debate on what juries can and cannot achieve effectively, specifically in fraud trials. It is important to approach these issues with sensitivity and with empirical evidence rather than presupposition, all the more so now that the USSR — and, I believe, Hungary — are introducing this venerable democratic institution for serious crimes.

Fraud trials can present specific problems sometimes lacking in other types of trial, notably problems of numeracy and extreme length and complexity, though they usually lack the emotional stress of many crimes of violence. Deliberation in such cases can be a test of memory of the trial itself and of stamina as much as forensic skill.

Some of the forthcoming major fraud trials would be most suited to research in these areas. Some defendants might not wish to give their consent to such research, however discreet, seeing it perhaps as another burden to add to the considerable publicity which will doubtless attend these trials; but there is a steady stream of middle-range frauds, prosecuted by the Crown Prosecution Service rather than the Serious Fraud Office and by the Crown Office in Scotland, which might be better suited for at least pilot study and inter-disciplinary analysis.

There is a case for tape-recording informed jurors' deliberations. This is prohibited by section 8 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981,

but a ministerial dispensation under the royal prerogative would be timely in the public interest.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL ROBERTSHAW,
University of Wales,
Cardiff Law School,
PO Box 427, Cardiff.

From Lord Benson

Sir, His Honour Bernard Gillis and his Honour Alan King-Hamilton (December 27) argue that trial by jury is a "pillar of the administration of criminal law". I pointed out that the protagonists of jury trials in serious fraud cases often base their views on high-sounding phrases which carry little conviction, such as "a lamp of liberty" and "a bulwark of democracy". In this context I see no difference between a lamp, a bulwark and a pillar.

They also argue that all serious fraud cases eventually boil down to a simple question as to whether the defendant knew that what he was doing was dishonest. I must repeat my contention, based on the Roskill report and its accompanying research, that the average juror cannot comprehend, still less remember, the complex issues which are put before him or her for four-and-a-half hours, day after day, for weeks on end; the jury's decision is therefore no better than a lottery.

This state of affairs is concealed from the public because serious fraud trials are not reported (if they were, the public would be as confused as the jury) and a jury is not required to explain or give reasons for its decision.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY BENSON,
House of Lords.

A piece of history

From Dr Alan McGowan

Sir, I can answer Kenneth Timmins's query (January 2) on a miniature clock inscribed "from the bosom of HMS Victory". The Victory was preserved and restored at the instigation of the Society for Nautical Research and with considerable financial assistance from the Save the Victory Fund, a charity which the SNR established in 1922 and still administers.

Victory was docked in January, 1922, an event that aroused a great deal of interest in the ship and led to the donation of a considerable amount of important historical material, pointing to the need for a Victory Museum.

Although the Admiralty made the old Dockyard Rigging House available in 1929, it was not until

1937 that sufficient funds had accrued for this secondary purpose — the restoration and refurbishment of the building. In that year work was begun and the Victory Museum was at last opened on July 23, 1938, by Admiral of the Fleet the Earl of Cork and Orrery.

An obvious way to raise money for the Victory Museum was by the sale of small items made from odds and ends of small timber recovered during the restoration. I suspect that the relic owned by Mr Timmins is one such and June 2, 1937, was presumably the occasion of a fund-raising drive.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN MCGOWAN (Chairman,
Victory Advisory Technical Committee),
73 Barnfield Wood Road,
Beckenham, Kent.

Assisted places

From Mr V. S. Anthony

Sir, While I cannot explain the marked difference in the take-up of assisted places in the North-east compared with the South-west (report, December 27), it is not difficult to explain why the take-up rate has fallen in Greater London. Heads of independent schools have been telling officials for some time that the income scale (means test) is much too severe, particularly for a region where the cost of living (particularly housing and transport) is so high and rising.

We have argued the need for a significant modification — an income allowance — to compensate for this. An allowance of £5,000 off the national scale would substantially increase the take-up rate in Greater London.

As headmaster of a school which has always worked hard to keep places open to pupils from all, including the poorest, backgrounds it has been disappointing to find that parents of poorer pupils, who have done well in our entrance examinations, are unable to afford to take them in. In 1989 we had well over 100 applications for 26 assisted places and yet only 20 could afford to accept them.

With so many of our AP pupils making a success of their school careers, and not only in terms of academic results, I wish David Smith every success in his enquiry and hope that ways will be found to make the scheme ever more effective.

Yours faithfully,
V. S. ANTHONY (Headmaster),
Colfe's School,
Horn Park Lane,
Lee, SE12.

No doubt it is very easy for Civil Servants in special positions, such as the private offices of the Prime Minister or other ministers, to slip over the line and trespass in the party political field. But in general Civil Servants do not "contest for forms of government" but seek for "whatever is best administered".

I very much hope that Civil Servants will be preserved from having to undergo "training in politics" as your correspondent seems to suggest. If that came about we should soon find (to quote the Paycock again) "the whole country's in a state of chaos".

Yours faithfully,
FREDERICK BISHOP,
Manor Barn, Church Road,
Bramshott,
Liphook, Hampshire.
January 4.

Aftermath of Bhopal tragedy

From Dr M. K. Ajwani

Sir, I am writing following Stephen Miller's letter (December 28) from the St John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem. Much of its work is similar to ours in Bhopal, also among poor people afflicted by man-made devastation.

The catastrophic leak of MIC gas from the Union Carbide plant on December 3, 1984, killed more than 2,000 people and injured more than 200,000. Ever since then a Sight Savers team of Indian eye doctors, paramedics, and nurses has been working to give eye care to the people affected by the disaster and to the surrounding community; we have treated about 272,000 people.

We now examine between 200 and 300 patients a day and give up to 200 sight-restoring operations each month. All this, last year, cost about £60,000.

We work from two small, simple eye hospitals — one in a converted warehouse in the centre of the city that we managed to lease soon after the disaster; one 10 miles out that was given to us in 1987 by a religious trust. We are building a new eye hospital in the centre of the city to take over and expand the work of the converted warehouse.

As well as out-patient and in-patient care, it will provide a community ophthalmology centre to undertake research, training, and outreach work. The building and equipment of this new hospital will cost about £338,000.

About 61 per cent of the patients we now see — more than five years after this, the world's worst industrial accident — have eye problems related to the MIC gas leak. However, we are delighted that, because of generous, caring people in Britain who have given and are giving to Sight Savers Bhopal Appeal, we are able to continue helping these people as well as establishing a permanent eye-care centre for them and their surrounding communities.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. AJWANI (Director, Sight Savers Bhopal Eye Hospital),
As from: PO Box 191,
Haywards Heath, West Sussex.
January 8.

Teaching of history

From Mr Keith Martin

Sir, Those historians who argued that the inclusion of history in the new curriculum was an unqualified step forward for the subject in schools will have got an unpleasant surprise from the report in your issue of December 26.

On the one hand, what is to be taught as history in schools is to be laid down by the secretary of state. Yet, on the other, and despite the detailed work done by the national working group into devising a comprehensive curriculum for ages five to 16, it is now suggested that history may be dropped at age 14.

Quite aside from the fact that the history working group has yet to present its final report, one wonders which elements of modern-day history it is proposed not to teach to those who drop the subject at 14. Yours sincerely,
K. MARTIN,
105a Lansdowne Road,
Tottenham, N17.

Where credit's due

From Mr Leonard Kelley

Sir, As someone who worked in the film industry for many years I have been intrigued at the ever-increasing number of credits given to those participating in the production of present-day offerings.

As a minor diversion I have tried to elect the most banal, as at the end of the trivial production the lists roll tediously on, and one of my all-time "greats" was "assistant to the accountant".

During Christmas, however, the latter was swept into oblivion by a gentlemen credited as "standby plasterer".

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
LEONARD KELLEY,
9 Horton Road,
Slapton,
nr Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.
January 4.

Seasonal swap

From Mr and Mrs Ronald Davison

Sir, Mr Richard Need's plea (January 5) for pictorial calendars to show bleak winter scenes in July and the delights of summer January are easily obtained, from Australia.

Our friends in Sydney sent a copy of the Australian Geographic Society's calendar for 1989. It took some getting used to seeing pictures "in reverse", so to speak. Yours faithfully,
RONALD DAVISON,
ANN DAVISON,
14 Muskham, Bretton,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.
January 5.

From Mrs Mary Burgess
Sir, Mr Need should obtain his calendars from Guernsey. My niece there sends me one each year, and the winter months are invariably illustrated by scenes of Guernsey in summer sunshine! Yours faithfully,
MARY BURGESS,
21 Summerhill Road,
Saffron Walden, Essex.
January 6.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

an stability

how Hitler manipulated German minorities in the Sudetenland (in the Czech Republic) and in Poland before the war. Moreover, there is a widespread fear in Poland that German companies will buy back the land and property lost after the Second World War or start new companies. This will give the economy a vital boost, but if they escape serious friction, they may have to live in considerable political anxiety. The Polish Communist Party has already tried to use the issue to divide the Polish people as the party of a patriotic Poles at a time when Solidarity government is nationalizing the economy.

East Germans and their families are also at large in many East German towns. Some East German towns have been built on the ruins of towns destroyed in the Second World War. Some East German towns have been built on the ruins of towns destroyed in the Second World War. Some East German towns have been built on the ruins of towns destroyed in the Second World War.

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COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM
January 9: Lady Abel Smith has succeeded Mrs Robert de Pass as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 9: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President of The Royal Ballet, today attended a luncheon given at the Royal Opera House by The Friends of Covent Garden in honour of Sir Kenneth MacMillan.

Mrs Jane Stevens was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 9: The Duke of Gloucester, as President, was present today at the launch of Citizens Action's Parents Against Tobacco 1990 Campaign at the London Press Centre, 76 Shoe Lane, London EC4.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

Birthdays today

Sir Walter Bodmer, geneticist, 54; Mr Eddie Cheever, racing driver, 32; Sir Robin Chichester-Clark, former MP, 62; Mr Justin Evans, youth and recreation worker, 87; Sir Arthur Gold, honorary life president, European Athletic Association, 73; Mr Sidney Griller, musician, 79; Mr Derek Hammond-Stroud, barrister, 64; Sir David Hopkin, chief metropolitan stipendiary magistrate, 68; Sir Derek Hornby, chairman, Rank Xerox (UK), 60; Mr T. Hutton, former managing director, Total Oil GB, 69; Sir Robert Marshall, civil servant, 70; Professor Peter Mathias, Master, Downing College, Cambridge, 62; Mr Denis Peach, former chief charity commissioner, 62; Mr Anton Rodgers, actor, 57; Mr Rod Stewart, rock singer, 43.

Dinners

Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress entertained the Court of Aldermen, the Sheriffs and the High Officers of the Corporation of London and their ladies at dinner last night at the Mansion House, Mr and Mrs D.W.O. Butler, Mr E.R.W. Bidwell, Miss Anton Rodgers and Mr James Bidwell were among those present.

Feltnakers' Company
Mr Jack Wallworth, Master of the Feltnakers' Company, entertained the Sheriffs at a Plough Monday dinner held last night at Armours' and Brasiers' Hall. Mr Alderman and Sheriff Paul Newall, Mr Peter Grant and Mr K.M. Parker also spoke.

Service dinner

RAFRAF
Air Commodore Sir Hector Moore, MP, presided at a dinner given by the Royal Auxiliary Air Force last night at RAF Bentley Priory in honour of Air Chief Marshal Sir John Barracough to mark his retirement as Honorary Inspector General. The guests included: Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Groves, Air Marshal Sir Michael Groves, Air Vice-Marshal Sir William Wilson, Air Vice-Marshal Sir Christopher and Air Vice-Marshal Sir Christopher.

Lord Swaythling

A memorial service for the late Lord Swaythling, who died on Friday, January 5, 1990, will be held at the New West End Synagogue, St Peter's Church, Place, London W2, on Sunday, January 28, at 3.00 pm.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.A.P. Wild and Miss K.M. Holborow
The engagement is announced between Robert Anstey Preston, son of Mr and Mrs Anstey Wild, of The White Cottage, Brailford, Derbyshire, and Katharine Mary, daughter of Mr Geoffrey and Lady Mary Holborow, of Laddock House, Laddock, Truro, Cornwall.

Mr D. Ramsey and Miss Alice Ramsey
The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Ramsey, St James, Barbados, and the Hon Alice Ramsey of Mar, second daughter of Captain Alexander Ramsey of Mar and the Lady Saltoun, Cairnburg Castle, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.

Mr S.R. Foster and Miss P.L. Duck
The engagement is announced between Simon Ridgby, elder son of Lady Foster and the late Sir Ridgby Foster, of Symonds, Kent, and Philippa Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Q. Back, of Sissland, Norfolk.

Mr C.S. Allinson and Miss J.J. Earlam
The engagement is announced between Clive Stuart, of Ingleby, Arncliffe, North Yorkshire, and Lucy Jane, daughter of the late Mr Peter Earlam and of Mrs Major Earlam, of London, SW16.

Corporal E.S. Anderson, Royal Marines (PWO) and Miss J.S. Barman
The engagement is announced between Kevin Stephen, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Anderson, of Redford, Nottinghamshire, and Jayne South, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Barry Barman, of Bourne End, Buckinghamshire.

Mr A.L. Antoniou and Miss L.M. Royle
The engagement is announced between Andreas, son of the late Mr Nicholas Antoniou and of Mrs Nicholas Antoniou, of Chelsea, London, and Lucinda, eldest daughter of Mr Peter Royle, of South Chalfont, East Sussex, and Mrs David Gibbs, of Plummers Plain, West Sussex.

Mr C.N. Garland and Miss D.C. Conway
The engagement is announced between Charles Nicholas, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Richard Michael Garland, of Putney, London, and Dawn Carol, daughter of Mr and Mrs Dennis Joseph Conway, of Northleigh, Devon.

Sir Charles Smith-Ryland

A service of thanksgiving for Sir Charles Smith-Ryland, KCVO, KCMG, JP, will be held in Coventry Cathedral on Wednesday, January 31, at noon. Those wishing to attend should please contact the Clerk of the Cathedral, PO Box 9, Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4RR; telephone: (0926) 412326. The 9.40 train from Euston to Coventry will be met.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Field Marshal Lord Bramall to be President of the London Playing Fields Society from January 1.

Mr Stuart Errington and Mr Ian McCosker to be non-executive members of the North Eastern Electricity Board.

Mr Richard Wilding, Mr John Billington and Mr John Entwistle to be trustees of the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside.

Mr R.B. Harris and Miss D.J. Moss
The engagement is announced between Rodney Harris, only son of Mrs K.E. Harris, of Pits Wood, Kent, and the late Mr H.E. Harris, and Deborah Jane, only daughter of Mr R.C. Moss, of South Croydon, Surrey, and Mrs B.E. Moss, of Merstham, Surrey.

Dr W.H. Harvey and Dr A.N. Street
Mr and Mrs A. Street, of Exmouth, have the pleasure of announcing the engagement of their eldest daughter, Ann, to Dr William R. Harvey, son of Dr and Mrs D. Harvey, of Padstow, Cornwall.

Mr P.B. Hayes and Miss J.L. Talbot
The engagement is announced between Peter, of Woodley, Reading, son of Mrs E. Hayes, of Worcester, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.L. Talbot, of Tenbury Wells, Worcester.

Mr R.J. Hudson and Miss J.H. Clark
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and the late Mrs J.A. Hudson, of Sydney, Australia, and Jill, daughter of Mr and Mrs B.C. Clark, of Upper Wootton, Hampshire.

Mr T. Jenkins and Miss C. O'Hara
The engagement is announced between Trevor, youngest son of Mr and Mrs A.P. Jenkins, of Edinburgh, and Cerys, daughter of Mr and Mrs Guy O'Hara, of Petersfield, and Mrs Thomas Whitaker, of Jude Farmhouse, Kingsley, Bordon, Hampshire.

Mr J.R. McTavish and Miss S.M. Mills
The engagement is announced between James, only son of Mr and Mrs A.P. McTavish, of Edinburgh, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.R. McTavish, of Petersfield, and Mrs Thomas Whitaker, of Jude Farmhouse, Kingsley, Bordon, Hampshire.

Mr A.D. McWilliam and Miss F.J. Beggs
The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Mr and Mrs Robin McWilliam, of High Green, Godalming, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Beggs, of Stoneydown, Dorset.

Mr D.J. Mills and Miss J.E. Lazarus
The engagement is announced between David John, eldest son of Mr T.J. Mills, of Shropshire, and Mrs G.P. Mills, of Wolverhampton, and Janet Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs N.A. Lazarus, of London.

Mr S.P. Mowbray Smith and Miss C.W. Topping
The engagement is announced between Stephen, younger son of Mr and Mrs Philip Smith, of Caversham, Berkshire, and Caroline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Bertrand Topping, of Stelling Minnis, Kent.

Mr H.E.J. Montgomery and Miss A.M. White
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Montgomery, of Beavenden, Dorkov, Co Antrim, and Annabel, youngest daughter of Major and Mrs Jeremy White, of Leckhampton House, near Buckingham.

Mr W.C.J. Mundy and Miss C.A. Liddell
The engagement is announced between William Campbell John, only son of Mr W.C. Mundy, of Lincoln, and Mrs J.E. Mundy, of Lincoln, and Christine Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.T. Liddell, of Tenterden, Kent.

Mr A.S. Parker-Jervis and Miss V.L. Hinchman
The engagement is announced between Andrew Sweeney, only son of Mr and Mrs James Parker-Jervis, of Templebury, Brechin, Angus, and Victoria, youngest daughter of the late Mr Rowan B. Hutchison and of Mrs D. Allen, of Rendham Court, Saxmundham, Suffolk.

Mr C.D. Partridge and Miss S.C. Langton
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mrs N. Partridge and the late Mr E.J. Partridge, of Kersey, Suffolk, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs H.S. Langton, of Chantisbury, Suffolk.

Mr J.J.M. St John and Miss M.M. Ramsay
The engagement is announced between John, youngest son of Mr and Mrs C.A.L. St John, of Gilebe Manor, Havant, Hants, and Melanie, elder daughter of Major and Mrs Neil Ramsay, of St Anna, Alynth, Perthshire.

Mr A.C.J. Stormouth-Darling and Miss E.V. Cowie
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr Robin Stormouth-Darling, of Balvarran, Perthshire, and Mrs Colin Ingleby-McKenzie, of London, and Rachel, youngest daughter of Mr John Cordie, of The Clack, London, and Mr Harry Ross Skinner, of Warnwell, Dorset.

Mr I.T.C. Shaw and Miss V.L. James
The engagement is announced between Ian, younger son of Mr and Mrs Colin Shaw, of Woodstock, Oxon, and Victoria, third daughter of Mr and Mrs Herbert James, of Hook Heath, Woking, Surrey.

Mr N.P. Tompsett and Miss N.L. Brennan
The engagement is announced between Neil Peter, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Tompsett, of Buxton, Derbyshire, and Nicola Louise, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Brennan, of Houghton, Lancashire.

Mr J.W.H. Trafford and Miss S.C. Brady
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, only son of Mr J.M.H. Trafford, of Hong Kong, and Mrs P.E.A. Lyon-Brown, of Harpole, Northants, and Sallyanne, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs A.J.S. Brady, of Oxted, Surrey.

Mr S.H. Vaughan-Johnson and Miss F.M. Wingham
The engagement is announced between Simon Humphrey, elder son of Mr and Mrs Charles Vaughan-Johnson, of Hamilton, Bermuda, and Fiona Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Wingham, of London.

Mr F.F. Webb and Miss S.R. Palmer
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of the late Mr and Mrs N.F. Webb, of Tonbridge, Kent, and Sharon, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs T. Palmer, of South Ockendon, Essex.

Mr K.S. Williams and Miss L. Cohen
The engagement is announced between Keith, elder son of Mr and Mrs Howard Williams, of Chichester, Kent, and Lisa, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Cohen, of Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Mr M.A.R. Wolsey, RM and Miss F.J. Staniland
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr R. Wolsey, of Wymondley, Norfolk, and Mrs M. Wolsey, of Mundford, Norfolk, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs I.G. Staniland, of Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

Marriage

Mr N.C. Arbuthnot and Miss T.A. Brett
The marriage took place quietly in London on Thursday, December 21, between Nicholas Arbuthnot and Tracey Brett.

OBITUARIES

VICE-ADMIRAL SIR MICHAEL VILLIERS

Air strikes over Suez

Vice-Admiral Sir Michael Villiers, KCB, OBE, who was in command of the aircraft carrier *Bulwark* from which air strikes on shore and naval targets were launched during the Suez operation in 1956, died on New Year's Day, aged 82.

Villiers was also the last Royal Naval officer to serve as Chief of Staff of the Royal New Zealand Navy, and was later Fourth Sea Lord.

He was born on June 22, 1907, at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, where his father, Rear-Admiral E. C. Villiers, was Captain, and was educated at Oundle School, joining the Royal Navy as a public school entrant in 1925. He specialised in signals and served in the West Indies and in destroyers in the Mediterranean before the War.

From May, 1939, to May, 1941, Villiers served as the Squadron Signal Officer and Flag Lieutenant to the Admiral commanding the battle cruiser squadron in various flagships. He was in the battleship *Warspite* during the Norwegian campaign and was

mentioned in despatches in June, 1940, for daring resource and devotion to duty in the Second Battle of Narvik. Later he was in the battleship *Hood*, leaving her shortly before she put to sea for her final voyage which ended under the guns of *Bismarck*.

Villiers was appointed OBE for his part in the planning and execution of the invasion of Sicily while serving on the staff of Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay. During the closing months of the war he commanded the destroyer *Ursa* in the British Pacific Fleet.

After the War he commanded the sloop *Snipe* on the West Indies station and following promotion to Captain in 1949 served at the Admiralty as Assistant Director of Plans, and later as Captain of the Dockyard and Queen's Harbourmaster in Malta.

In 1955 Villiers assumed command of the carrier *Bulwark* which had been completed the previous year. He took her on her first commission in which she was

quickly involved in the Suez Operation. During the few hectic days of the active part of the campaign *Bulwark's* Sea Hawks flew hundreds of sorties, protecting the task force from attack, sinking marauding enemy surface craft and attacking enemy troop concentrations and gun batteries on shore.

Promoted to Rear-Admiral in 1958 Villiers then served as Chief of Staff of the Royal New Zealand Navy, the last Royal Naval officer to hold this appointment. From 1960 to 1963 he was a member of the Board of Admiralty as Fourth Sea Lord and Vice-Controller of the Navy.

On his retirement from the Royal Navy in 1964 Villiers became Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey, an appointment he held until 1969. He was made a CB in 1960 and created KCB in 1962.

He was a keen fisherman and was still catching salmon in the last few months of his life.

In 1936 he married Rosemary Grissell who survives him with their two daughters.

ARTHUR KENNEDY

A brooding presence in supporting film roles

Arthur Kennedy, the American actor who was nominated for five film Oscars and gave several outstanding performances in plays by Arthur Miller, died on January 5 in Branford, Connecticut, at the age of 75. He had been suffering from cancer.

Appearing in more than 70 films, Kennedy was usually a supporting player but one of unusual quality who was particularly effective in suggesting a violent or neurotic strain beneath a placid exterior. Some of his parts came during the 1930s when he gave notable studies of treachery, evil and revenge in the Westerns *Where the River Bends*, *The Man From Laramie* and *Rancho Notorious*.

His first Oscar nomination was for the 1949 boxing drama, *Champion*. His other nominations were for *Bright Victory*, in which he played a blinded soldier adjusting to civilian life; *Trial*; *Payton Place* and *Some Came Running*.

The highlight of his stage career was creating the character of Biff, the oldest son of the central character, Willy Loman, in the Broadway production of Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* in 1949. The performance won him a Tony Award.

Two years earlier he starred in another Miller play, *All My Sons*.



and made his film debut as Cagney's brother in *City For Conquest*.

Under contract to Warner Brothers he appeared with Humphrey Bogart in *High Sierra*, with Errol Flynn in *They Died With Their Boots On* and with Flynn and Ronald Reagan in *Desperate Journey*. In the late 1940s he gave vivid performances as the murder suspect in *Boomerang* and the father in *The Window*. He supported Gertrude Lawrence in the 1950 film of Tennessee Williams' play, *The Glass Menagerie*.

Kennedy's later films generally gave him less scope but his newspaper correspondent in David Lean's *Lawrence of Arabia* will be remembered for his description of Lawrence as "the most shameless exhibitionist since Barnum and Bailey".

Among other notable films were *Elmer Gantry*, *Brubaker* and *Cheyenne Autumn*. He had recently started making films again after a 10-year gap during which he had fought a battle against thyroid cancer and eye disease. His last film, *Grandpa*, was completed four months ago, just before his final illness, and will be released in the spring.

His wife, Mary Cheffey, a former actress, died in 1975. They had a son and a daughter.

SIR HUGH ELLIOTT

A 'green' before his time

Sir Hugh Elliott, Bt, OBE, an able colonial administrator in Tanganyika and a distinguished ornithologist and conservationist, has died, aged 76, after a long illness.

Born in India on March 10, 1913, he was educated at the Dragon School, Eastbourne College and University College, Oxford, and entered the Colonial Service in Tanganyika in 1937. For the three years 1950-52 he served as Administrator of Tristan da Cunha. While Permanent Secretary of the Tanganyika Ministry of Natural Resources, he played a key part in the

preservation of the Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater, today two of Tanzania's principal tourist assets.

On his retirement in 1961, he worked for 20 years for the Swiss-based International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, including a spell as Secretary General in 1962-66 and finally as the editor of the Union's technical publications. Always a keen bird-watcher and meticulous observer, he added greatly to scientific knowledge of the birds of Tristan da Cunha and

later was joint author of *Herons of the World*. He also served for several years as an officer of the British Ornithologists' Union, ending as President in 1975-77, was Chairman of the British Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation; and for ten years was a trustee of the British Museum (Natural History).

He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, with whom he was able to celebrate his golden wedding only a few days before his death, and by their son, the ornithologist Dr Clive Elliott, and two daughters.

PERCY BAKER

Supreme on the bowling green

Percy Baker, who reigned supreme on the bowling greens of England in the days before Drake's gentle game was launched into an era of sponsorship and high-profile television coverage, died on January 3, aged 94.

His first appearance for England was in 1933, his last in 1959; he was, therefore, one of the sportsmen whose international careers straddled the Second World War. He captained England in 1950, and would probably have gone on to gain more caps if he had not taken umbrage after being dropped in 1960.

Born in Weston-super-Mare on July 19, 1895, Edwin Percy Baker, a tall, elegant amateur, collected so many national

titles between 1932 and 1962 that his record was, at the time, considered unsurpassable. He won the English singles four times - in 1932, 1946, 1952 and 1955 - the pairs in 1950 and 1962; and triples in 1960.

A professional photographer, he lived most of his life in Dorset, where he took up bowls in Poole Park in 1921. He remained a faithful playing member of that famous club, and played for Dorset from 1927 until 1969. Encroaching blindness forced him to give up the game about 15 years ago.

At the Commonwealth Games in Cardiff in 1958 he beat the outstanding Australian, Glyn Bosisto, but had to

settle for the silver medal behind South Africa's Finkie Danilowitz. Remarkably, he reached the final of the English singles in 1965, aged 70, but his last major victory was in the Bournemouth tournament in 1971.

David Bryant, by coincidence another Somerset man, has since broken Baker's record, outstripping him with 16 national outdoor titles but never fails to pay tribute to the influence Baker had on his bowling career. "When I broke his record, Percy was the first to congratulate me," says Bryant. "It was one of the most memorable moments of my life."

He leaves a wife and son.

Latest wills

Mr Harry Corbett, of Child Okeford, Dorset, creator of the Sooty and Sweep puppets, left estate valued at £79,910 net.
Mr Aubrey Edwin Orchard-Lisle, of Mayfair, left estate valued at £6,628,927 net. He left £100,000 to the United Medical School of Guy's and St Thomas's Hospitals for research into osteo-arthritis and the remainder of the estate mostly to relatives.
Mr Harry Redland, of Loddington, Northamptonshire, left estate valued at £1,316,328 net.
Barbara Hulton, of Uppermill, Greater Manchester, left estate valued £1,055,323 net.

Mrs Kathleen Ann Davies, of Canford Cliffs, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,382,108 net.
Mr Rudy Michael Young, of Harington, Middlesex, left estate valued at £799,193 net. Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
Mr Francis William O'Brien, of Southport, Merseyside, £533,345.
Mr Bernard Perrell, of Colston Raleigh, Devon, £484,620.
Mr Frederick John Walker, of Broadstairs, Kent, £500,263.
Mr Stuart Wilson, of London SW10, £480,163.
Mrs Rose Nelkin, of London N2, £333,098.

Mr Paul Humphrey Springs, of Cheddle Hulme, Greater Manchester, £311,631.
Mrs Diane Rumsey, of Rotherfield, East Sussex, £457,238.
Mr Eric Benjamin Bramwell, of Coventry, West Midlands, £332,876.
Mrs Mary Forster, of Gosforth, Tyne and Wear, £577,694.
Mrs Margaret Isabella Baker, of London W8, £399,007.
Mr Maurice James Kibb, of Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, £65,271.
Mr John Robert Roberts, of Dolgellau, Gwynedd, £70,548.

SCIENCE REPORT

Predestined to fall for the velvet voiced frog prince

Just what attracts a female frog to her "prince" may sound like a trivial problem, but the issue is at the centre of a debate in evolutionary biology that has raged for over a century.

Charles Darwin saw that many male courtship signals were a drawback in the day-to-day struggle for survival: a croaking male frog, for example, may attract predators as well as a mate. But Darwin also realized that the reproductive benefits of courtship displays could outweigh any costs, were the female preference for extravagant male displays sufficiently strong.

This theory of sexual selection by female choice is now well-established; the source of the controversy is exactly how female choice and the male courtship display evolve. Females may choose displaying males because they tend to father more and fitter young. But there need not be a real advantage in mating with a displaying male: because offspring may inherit both their mother's choosiness (in females) and their father's style of display (in males), the two traits can evolve together, by a "runaway" process.

Both of these explanations suppose that either female choice and male display evolve hand-in-hand, or that the display appears first.

A report the January 4 issue of *Nature* (vol 343, pp 66-67) challenges these explanations, arguing that in one species at least, male mating calls have evolved to exploit a pre-existing female preference for certain types of call.

This species is the tungara frog (*Physalaemus pustulosus*), the males of which have a distinctive call: a drawn-out whine followed by up to six "chucks". Females are attracted to "chucking" males, and the deeper a male's voice, the more attractive he is.

Walter Wilczynski, of the University of Texas, and colleagues measured the response of nerves in the ears of female frogs to notes of different frequency. Each frog "chuck" is a complex mixture of harmonics rather than a single pure tone, and with the help of some clever computer modelling, the researchers found that the females' ears were tuned to respond best to a frequency that was lower than the average dominant (lowest) frequency in the "chucks" of a sample of 54 male tungara frogs from Barro Colorado Island, Panama.

These results explain how larger males, who produce the deepest chucks, attract most females in the wild. In itself, this does not overturn conventional thinking on sexual selection. The key finding was that the ears of females from a

different yet closely related species, *Physalaemus coloradensis*, are tuned to respond best to almost exactly the same frequency as tungara females' ears. But P. coloradensis males have never evolved the chucking call.

One idea to explain this state of affairs is that the females' preference for low-register sounds in both species was inherited from a common ancestor, but only tungara males have exploited this preference to attract mates. If this is the case, then conventional explanations of sexual selection, where male display arises before, or together with, female preference, do not apply to the tungara frog.

"If similar mechanisms apply in many species, present views of sexual selection by female choice may have to be changed", says Malte Andersson, of the University of Gothenburg, commenting on the paper in the same issue of *Nature*.

The researchers call the mechanism of sexual selection in tungara frogs "sexual selection by sensory exploitation" - an appropriately sinister title for a situation where females are literally pre-programmed to fall for a male's chat-up line.

Peter Aldhous

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School announcements

Bedford High School
The Spring Term begins today and ends on March 27. A Cello Concert by Stefan Popov will be held on Friday, January 19. The Wind Concert on Tuesday, March 6. The Gymnastic Display on March 15 and 16 and the Dance Competition on March 21. Junior entrance assessments are on January 20 (8 plus), January 24 (7 plus) and January 27 (9 plus and 10 plus); senior entrance and assisted places examinations are on February 3.

Churcher's College
Lent Term began at Churcher's College on Tuesday, January 9. The Entrance Examinations are to be held on Saturday, February 10. The Old Churchians' Day will be Saturday, March 24, with the Old Boys' v XI XI Hockey match at 2.30 pm. Term will end on Friday, March 23, following the Founder's Day Service at which the Bishop of Portsmouth will address the congregation.

Edgell College, Devon
Term began yesterday, January 9, at Edgell College. The 11+ Entrance Examination will be held on Friday, February 2, and the Examination for 6th Form Scholarships on Friday, February 16. Old Edgellians will be meeting for lunch at the Imperial Hotel, Exeter, on Saturday, March 3. Our Careers Convention will be held on Friday, March 9. Term ends on Wednesday, March 28.

Harrow School
Easter term begins at Harrow School today. T.J. Hughes (The Knoll) continues as head of school. The boys of The Park have moved into 35 Peterborough Road while the house is renovated. The competition for music scholarships will be held on February 5; for academic, art and computing scholarships on March 5 and for full fee scholarships for boys from local authority schools on March 12. The Choral Society, with the Wycombe Abbey School choir, will perform Beethoven's *Massa Solemnis* on March 20 and the 50th anniversary of the Church of England will take place in the Albert Hall on November 22. Term ends on March 24.

Lawnsdale School
The Governors of Lawnsdale School, Malvern, are pleased to announce the appointment from January 1991, of Miss Janet Harvey, GNSM, I.R.A.M., PGCE, as Headmistress of Lawnsdale on the retirement of Miss Doreen Stewart after 19 years. Miss Harvey is at present Senior Mistress and Director of Music at St George's School, Ascot.

Moulshof Preparatory School
The Spring Term begins at Moulshof Preparatory School today. Russell Perkins is Head Boy, Martin Wilson, Captain of Rugby Football and Russell Perkins, Captain of Sevens. Dylan Lloyd is Head Chorister. There will be a production of the musical *Blas-Off* in the School Hall on Thursday, March 22, Friday, March 23, and Saturday, March 24. Term ends on Tuesday, March 27.

St Dunstan's College
Lent Term began on January 9, and ends on March 18, except between February 17 to 22. C.J. Winchester continues as Head of School. The Dramatic Society's production of *Twelfth Night* will be performed on February 14, 15 and 16, and the Preparatory Department will perform *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* on March 21, 22 and 23. The College will combine with Bromley High School (G.P.D.S.T.) to sing *Elijah* at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon, March 16. The Inspecting Officer at the CCF Annual Inspection on March 5, will be Colonel P.F. Shervington, MBE, Deputy Colonel, City of London, R.R.F. The College Entrance Examination will take place on Tuesday, January 23.



BACK COPIES AVAILABLE FOR THE LAST 6 MONTHS

SOME REVIEWS MAY BE REPRINTED FROM YESTERDAY'S LATER EDITIONS

THE ARTS

Killing inaction

TELEVISION
Oscar Moore

Recruited from the dullest of the young squadrons of Britain, the young squaddies could expect the Army to give some discipline, purpose and future to his life: at most a career, at least a sense of physical achievement.

Instead, the same bottom-of-the-barrel contempt is meted out to the green recruit inside and outside the army, with the difference that inside this contempt is accompanied by physical violence that in many cases brutalizes and in some cases kills.

How many stories have we read of jilted squaddies knifing their girlfriends? These are men

knocked off-balance by perpetual abuse. How many stories do we need to read of death from heart stroke on full-kit runs, before the MoD decides the rules need changing?

The subject to *Taking Liberties: Dress to Kill* (BBC 2) was a public and official indifference to the squaddies' fate. From social delinquent to cannon-fodder, the squaddie goes from useless to used without winning any public affection. He is always disposable.

Now the public has begun to wake up as the families of soldiers who died after collapsing into coma (denied adequate medical attention and in several cases beaten as they lay dying) have protested. But the cover-up within the army is air-tight. Inquiry findings are not published. NCO brutality often seems to go unpunished.

Steve Hewlett's film was disturbing, but marred by a melodramatic soundtrack and absurdly inappropriate slow-motion footage of a soldier running across fields. Used as a series of links, this footage resembled an army commercial, glorifying the very exercises the medical experts had just decried.

Nothing, however, could dull the contempt and acerbic precision of that expert direction. What became clear from interviews with an

Army doctor was that night-mare runs in full kit are not only dangerous, but irrelevant to the military training of a modern soldier.

National Theatre boss Richard Eyre talks to Sheridan Morley about theatre on the South Bank and nationwide

Not making a crisis out of it

Fifteen months into his joint management of the National Theatre with David Aukin, the director Richard Eyre moves into the new decade with a kind of wary confidence.

"I have terrible twinges of shame and guilt," he says, "when I think how hard I was in my heart about Peter Hall before I understood what this job required. When he once said that his main achievement here had just been to keep the place open, I really didn't believe him, but a year on that seems to make perfect sense. Sometimes it's the very most you can hope to achieve. But, as David Mamet has it, things change: a year ago, even less, we'd have said that East Europe was unchangeable. Mrs Thatcher was unchallengeable, the Arts Council was unyielding."

"Now some of that is true any more. We are being given better grants, the box-office is way up on this time last year, indeed we are holding the biggest cash advance we've ever known, something like a million pounds for the next three months and that after a bad summer. We've suddenly come into a golden time, due at least in part to our announcement of the Sondheim musical *Sunday in the Park*, though even that seemed like a terrible risk when we started to plan it."

Does Eyre accept the notion that the National and the RSC operate on a kind of subsidized seasaw? "Not entirely; they may have had a rough time at the Barbican this summer but *Plautus* was a triumph, and a lot will depend on who they appoint as Terry Hands's successor."

"I'm not congenitally very envious, though of course there's a shard of ice in my soul when some colleague has a hit and I'm having a flop; but I look forward to the RSC rivalry, even if we do end up chasing the same few actors and directors who are still willing to work for our kind of money."

After a brief honeymoon period, Eyre admits that his first months in office have had their fair share of disaster as well as triumph in this past year.



Richard Eyre: "People seem now to long for a spiritual dimension... for poetry... for something bigger"

"*Juno* [and the Paycock] was clearly a huge disappointment, though it was done in good faith, and for me personally it has been a terribly unhappy year with *Hamlet*. Mental exhaustion beset Daniel Day-Lewis and then illness struck the late Ian Charleson who replaced him. "A production which, in rehearsal, seemed to generate unstoppable energy came to a very sad end, and I felt that somehow I was to blame, because I have always unconsciously looked for *Hamlet* who were very close to the edge. The play exists on a borderline of danger, and perhaps I should have been more alert to that."

Looking back on a decade Eyre spent very largely in television (*Tumbledown*) and the cinema (*Ploughman's Lunch*), he remains faintly surprised that it has brought him back to a permanent theatre job.

"By the end of the Seventies I thought we had gone as far as we could with public theatre; I sensed the 1980s were going to be a much tougher time for the arts, and so when I was offered the 'peace with honour' of a BBC job I was very glad. But then to my amazement I kept missing the theatre, and even the involvement of being a manager. I missed the family feeling you get with a theatre company but never with a film or television crew, however close you may get to them for a short time."

"In terms of new playwriting, this has been a fairly terrible decade. We are still relying on the same people who were writing at the end of the last decade, and maybe even the one before that. Apart from Doug Lucie and Nick Dear it's very hard to name a major playwright of the Eighties, and the problem is not just underfunding. Money may allow

more people a chance, and it's appalling that the Royal Court had to close its studio stage, but you can't legislate for talent and at the moment adversarial ideas or moral debates are just not being encouraged. "Rocking the Boat" would not be a theme song for the Eighties."

So what about the return to a kind of actor-power symbolized by the success of Kenneth Branagh's Renaissance company? "I'm not at all sure that's a bad thing: if you sit down with any group of actors and listen to them talking about directors, it is like hearing the camp guards at Buchenwald being discussed. What's good about Branagh is that he put his career where his mouth was. Most actors complain without doing anything about it: Branagh, like Jacobi and McKellen, is willing to jump into the bear-pit, rather than sheltering

all the time behind film and television cameras. Most actors are now sucked into rich cinema lives, and they just don't want to do live theatre without even the compensation of good money."

Looking ahead to the 1990s, Eyre finds it hard to think beyond the new David Hare play which he is currently rehearsing for a February 1 premiere at the Cottesloe. "It's called *Racing Demon*, and it's the story of four clergymen in South London struggling to make sense of their mission in the inner city. It's about the problems of trying to do good in an evil world, and it's about the debate going on at the moment within the Church of England, which is not at all unlike the one going on inside the Labour Party."

"But on another level, it's about a lack of spirituality at the end of the most despiritualized and materialistic decade in recent history. People seem now to long for a spiritual dimension, which may explain the current rise in opera interest, and the hunger for Shakespeare, even in the West End. There's a longing for poetry which simply doesn't exist elsewhere, and as the landscape diminishes in every way, there's a yearning for something bigger."

"Further into the future I foresee endless battles about public funding, though morale is a lot better in the arts now the government has given us an increase, which in our case amounts to about 11 per cent over the next year."

There's an increasing interest in the exploration of theatricality, and I think we will see more attempts to push theatre towards opera, more reliance on visual imagery, but I hope also that our theatre will become more expressive. I don't see us becoming heavily conceptualized in a German way, but I do see a lot more invention and exploitation of theatricality. The career of the writers still seem frightened of the wide open spaces of the Olivier: we are still awaiting the next *Pravda*.

Was this the best of his oeuvre?

JAZZ
Clive Davis

John Dankworth
Ronnie Scott's

Forty years ago, John Dankworth, CBE, was upsetting the British jazz establishment as leader of the Johnny Dankworth Seven. At a time when modernism was still struggling to gain a foothold in this country, the saxophonist helped spread the gospel at concerts where the musicians' share of the profits often amounted to shillings rather than pounds.

Veterans from that period will be passing through Fifth Street over the next fortnight, as Dankworth stages a reunion of the Seven as well as his big band, which at one time or another included Kenny Clare, Peter King and a pianist by the name of Dudley Moore. Dankworth's alto saxophone has lost little of its edge over the years. The Seven's recordings, fired by intricate, sometimes over-elaborate arrangements, still sound fresh and inventive.

Whether the big band charts have worn as well must be open to question. Monday night's opening set was certainly a lacklustre occasion, though it was hard to decide exactly how much of the responsibility lay with the arrangements and how much with competent but uninspired ensemble playing.

With luck, the band will sound more compelling by the end of the residency. In the meantime it is worth watching for the contribution of Don Rendell, whose tenor solo added zest to a polite reading of "Stompin' at the Savoy". Another founder-member of the Seven, Eddie Harvey, leads the trombone section and provides one of the newer numbers, "Sweet Deja Vu".

Dankworth himself made an effective switch to soprano saxophone for Paul Hart's "Bye, Bye Manuel", a new piece dedicated to Panama's favourite son. The decision to re-work the Sixties suite "What The Dickens" was, however, not such a good idea.

Stout-hearted family likenesses

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

Boots for the Footless
Tricycle

One would not be surprised to learn that Brian Behan's first play had been dictated to him - perhaps via some Dublin-based spiritualist - by his famous brother from a bar in the backstreets of the Elysian Fields. The family resemblance is that great.

True, we are not talking here of the late Brendan's very best plays. *Boots for the Footless* stands in the same relation to them as stout to whisky. It pleasantly befuddles the head, cheers the heart, transmits a party feeling, somewhat as Brendan's *Richard's Cork Leg* did; but it has not the bite of his *Quare Fellow* or even of his *Hostage*.

Brian goes so far as to time-warp the action back to his brother's heyday, the Fifties, when it was relatively safe to gaily the Irish as muddlers, make genial jokes about the republicans, and even suggest that a man waving a gun was less a menace than an unkempt buffoon.

He does all these things, at times becoming openly nostalgic in the process. Among the songs that intermittently interrupt the action, with their choruses of "diddleyday, yiddleydiddleyday", is one lamenting the concreting-over of dear old Dublin and the passing of the "rare old times" you could enjoy there.

There is hardly more of a plot than in *Richard's Cork Leg*. Brian is always more interested in parading his characters' eccentricities than in shaping their collective story; and a pretty eccentric lot they are. There is Pader (Billy Boyle), first cousin to O'Casey's classically feckless Joxer, who spends the first half successfully avoiding work in a Dublin bedroom and the second doing the same on a London building site.

There is Bridie (Heather Tobias), the reason for his change of habitat. She spends much of the evening threatening to sue him for breach of promise and pursuing



Successful shinker: Bill Boyle plays Pader in *Boots for the Footless*

him with deadly weapons, all in hopes of securing his hand and his £5,000. The play cheerfully combines sentimentality and cynicism: another family trait.

Then there are Pader's two nephews, one a fervent communist and the other the rampaging patriot with a gun, both united against their foreman in London, an Irish royalist so keen to reconstruct the South Bank he has, he proudly says, "no wife but a concrete mixer". Again like his brother, Brian evidently finds something a bit absurd about every ideology, left or right - and, indeed, about anyone inclined to take life solemnly.

The play could of course, and doubtless will, be attacked for being confused, loose, dated and frivolous, for perpetuating national stereotypes, and so forth; but to do so would be excessively

puritan and pretty humourless. In these rancorous times maybe we could do with more of the Behan family philosophy, which is (roughly) to live and let live, preferably with a glass in the hand and a scurrilous toast on the lips. To call the play untidy is to miss the point, since human untidiness is what it is basically celebrating.

In any case, Mike Bradwell's cast put over some entertaining lines with a rumpled, offhand charm it is hard to dislike. "What did I do for the working class? Make boots for the footless," says Boyle's ineffably idle Pader, giving the play its title. "All religion has given me is children and no sex when all I wanted was sex and no children," adds Walter Monagle, playing his more driven brother. Well, all right, the quips have not got Brendan's zip; but they made me laugh at the time.

The lady doth protest too much

Jeremy Kingston

The Human Voice
Hampstead

there is emotion all right, galled of it; the unnamed woman has lived with her lover for five apparently blissful years and does not want them to end. She pretends she is hearing up, reveals she has tried an overdose, never utters a word of reproach, caresses the instrument as though it were her lover's head and believes she has existed solely to be his beloved.

Or so Coccia suggests, and the play's glaring fault is to give barely an inkling of how they were together. She is nothing but a woman saying, in effect, "Good-bye, don't go." Limiting the

relationship to these closing notes, with neither a theme nor recapitulation beforehand save for her statement that the past was joyful, leaves one with the feeling that the man is better off without this dripping tap.

Perhaps it sounds better in French. The actress in a recent Almodóvar film does it in Spanish and almost rips the wallpaper off her bedroom. Possibly this is the way to do it. Susannah York plays it for quiet tones and silent expressions of grief. There are passages where these do brush the heart; when her words are faint, husky and almost without breath, they hint at the anguish of a voice at the end of its tether, stretching out to the bowl of goodness sliding further from her grasp. At other times one feels, "Come off it, there is a meal elsewhere."

A torch for grandads

CONCERTS

Richard Morrison

PLG Young Artists
Purcell Room

Young performers are rightly expected to carry a torch for the music of their contemporaries. They might query whether it is also necessary for them to do missionary work on behalf of their grandfathers' contemporaries, especially those whom grandfather neglected first time round.

Such were one's thoughts when a fine American pianist, Thomas Kaurich, opened the week-long "Park Lane Group Young Artists and 20th Century Music" series with a real old curiosity shop of a programme. Kaurich's technique exudes power and a sense of daring; his preparation is clearly diligent and his perception excellent. None of which could really help to turn Tippet's First Piano Sonata towards presentability. It was written in 1936, when Tippet was floundering feckishly in search of his own voice, and among its eccentricities is an entombment of the Scottish tune "Ca' the Yowies".

Ernest Bloch's 1935 Piano Sonata is a more mature work, yet coming from a composer who was such a master of anguished quasi-Hebrew melancholy it is surprisingly acidic and brutal in its outer movements. Kaurich delivered it with a tremulous punch.

Between these two discourses came *Labyrinth* by Edwin Roxburgh, one of the PLG's featured composers this week. The title seems to refer to the crabby, constricted scurrings for overlapping hands, which recur throughout; but interlarded with this is a

competent, if scarcely original, deployment of effective coloristic devices; notably chords dampened until only their harmonics sound.

The other featured composer, Anthony Powers, was represented later in the evening by a solo clarinet piece, *Sea/Air*, which was simple in structure - alternating explosive, high-velocity scales and trills with extremely slow, barely audible notes - but rich in fantasy.

It was the best played item presented by clarinettist Dov Goldberg, who had survived a shaky start in Lutoslawski's Dance Preludes, only to encounter Simon Parkin's *Songs for Marina* - clarinet and piano pieces of breathtaking purity, minimal in thought as well as style, and apparently inspired by the ever-depressed android in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Harvey Davies, an accomplished pianist, was hardly stretched intellectually here.

The evening's premiere was given by the mezzo Adele Paxton who (with the pianist Caroline Dowdle) used her full-bodied timbre and platform gravitas to excellent effect in *Ophelia*, a setting of the German poet Georg Heym by the young Cambridge-based composer, Andrew Lovett. The piano part was mostly an unsurprising watery ripple, stabbed occasionally by some more strident interjection (presumably to remind the listener that this stream contains something very dead), and the voice moved purposefully to a climax via uneasy, Henze-like contours. Yet the key atmosphere was sustained well.

Paxton has an admirable range and dramatic instinct; if she overcame her fear of breaking the vocal line to admit those boring, ugly things called consonants, her future would be bright.

Experience is not the only thing that matters

Hilary Finch

Essex Young Musicians
Wigmore Hall

shows. Her Brahms E flat Sonata and Kodaly Adagio displayed formidable arm strength and long-sighted phrasing; and doubtless these qualities serve her well in her work with the BBC Concert Orchestra. But if she wants to pursue a solo career, more time will have to be spent on listening to intonation, to tones of voice, to character and idiom.

Alison Baker, on the other hand, plays the piano with all the confidence and teeth-gritted determination worthy of one who has sat in the lone chair of *Mastermind* and battled her way through numerous national competitions. Her Beethoven ("Les Adieux") and Chopin Fantasia in F minor revealed little but technical panache; imagination and communication as yet play little part in Baker's musical world.

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

Maiden's answer to a prayer

Tracy Edwards's dream of leading her all-woman crew to victory in the Round the World Race is half-way to coming true, Barry Pickthall writes

At 27, Tracy Edwards is not only one of the youngest skippers to have entered the Whitbread Round the World yacht race, but, at 5ft 2in, she is probably the shortest. She is certainly the first to sail with an all-woman crew — and the first woman to be leading her class.

Her achievement in overcoming sceptical male chauvinism to find £1 million in sponsorship and sail into Auckland ahead of four male crews in this toughest of events was rewarded yesterday with the highest accolade the sport can bestow — Yachtsman of the Year, a title bestowed by the Yachting Journalists Association. The presentation was held in Auckland, where Edwards's yacht, Maiden, is undergoing a refit before the 23-strong Round the World fleet sets out for Cape Horn on February 4. Peter Blake of New Zealand, whose Steinlager 2 leads the race overall, read out the citation.

"She has campaigned tirelessly to find both a sponsor and a boat, faced and overcome repeated setbacks, including committing herself to buying a boat with no major sponsor signed up," he said. "Her efforts in winning two legs of this race have also led to considerable publicity, virtually all of it favourable, for yachting in general and women's participation in particular."

Yet, almost exactly a year ago, Edwards's dream of competing in this 33,000 mile epic appeared to be shattered. After making more than 300 approaches to British companies, an electronics group which had shown great interest in her project finally said no, despite the patronage and continued support given to Edwards by the Duchess of York, who later christened the yacht.

With just eight months to go before the start of the race, however, money and time appeared to have run out. "I was so convinced that [the electronics group] would be the funder. When they rang to tell me their decision, I just broke down and cried," Edwards recalled yesterday. Broke, and with no leads to fresh sponsorship, Edwards telephoned her friend and mentor, King Hussein of Jordan. She had met him and Queen Noor, his American wife, in 1985, when the king chartered a yacht on which Edwards was crewing as cook.

"We became friends. He was very interested in my ambition to sail around the world, and told me I should contact him if I ever needed help or advice. He followed my passage as a cook aboard the Whitbread yacht Atlantic Privater

during the 1985-86 race, and we kept in touch." The king's advice was "grit your teeth and stick with it. You must never give up." Three months later, Royal Jordanian Airways, which had already contributed towards Maiden's preparations in a warm-up transatlantic race the previous December (which the women won, gaining valuable exposure on American television), stepped in to back Edwards's dream of proving that women could compete on equal terms with men. This and other valuable support from a Southampton car distributor, a life insurance group, a firm of accountants and the Maiden poster display company, gave Edwards and her crew the tools to take on the world.

"Out of all the likely companies we approached, not one came forward with any help. All our sponsors contacted us first, believing, as I did, that we could achieve our goal," Edwards said. Equal faith was shown by more than 500 young women — and two men — around the world who wanted to join the adventure. "Applications are still coming in," she said yesterday, half-way through the race itself. "I interviewed 90 people, had sailing trials with 40 and picked a nucleus of eight. The crew really picked themselves, because I could tell immediately those who had the application and belief in what I was doing."

Two weeks before the start, a clash of wills led to the departure of Marie Claude Keiffe, Maiden's highly experienced sailing master. This caused a crisis in the camp. Some of Edwards's crew did not believe she possessed the experience or ability to run the sailing side — a belief shared by others, myself included. The step from cook to captain had been sudden and unexpected. A professional sailor for 10 years, Edwards had learnt to navigate and had proved an able project director, but what would happen when the chips were down in the Southern Ocean?

Maiden's performance has forced us all to eat our words. As the race has unfolded, I have watched the 12-strong crew, and Edwards in particular, mature visibly with each stage. "When we started the race three of the crew were open enough to say they did not have faith in my abilities as a skipper, and would be leaving the yacht after the first leg," Edwards admitted. But when they arrived in the Uruguayan port of Punta del Este at the end of the first, 6,300 mile stage, an excited third in class, no one left. However, at the start of the second, 7,650 mile leg across the freezing wastes of the Southern Ocean to Fremantle, West Australia, apprehension had struck.



Twelve of the best: the crew of the Maiden congratulate Tracy Edwards on her Yachtsman of the Year award

"I was quaking in my shoes," Edwards said. "We had experienced some bad weather, but how would we cope with the extreme conditions of the Roaring Forties and Screaming Fifties?"

Edwards had good reason to be fearful. The weather was among the worst encountered in the 17-year history of the race, leading to one death, five other man-overboard crises, and three cases of broken bones. On Maiden, Claire Russell, the team doctor, was knocked overboard. Russell's life-harness stopped her from falling in the water, but the shock of nearly losing a crewmate took some time to overcome.

They experienced another close shave midway through the voyage, when Maiden narrowly missed two icebergs. "The radar did not pick them up," Edwards said. "It was a dark, moonless night, and the first I saw was a flash of light ahead. I turned round and saw another we had just sailed past."

Another aspect they found diffi-

cult to contend with was the intense cold. In one of Tracy's regular dispatches to *The Times* during the race, she wrote: "It is bitterly cold and the wind just bites through the layers of clothing. Fingers are permanently unworkable. It is 9°C below deck and the heater is no more effective than sitting around a candle, so we can't even get warm."

Despite the conditions, the Maiden crew pulled out a 230-mile lead over their rivals. They capped this with a second victory on the next stage, from Fremantle to Auckland, building a 16-hour lead over the fleet at this half-way stage. Behind the boat is a supportive shore crew that includes pop star Simon Le Bon's brother Johnny, and Pam Hay, from Neley in Hampshire, who carries the title of Social Secretary. She controls the diary and crew uniforms and arrives in port ahead of time to investigate the best night-spots.

Edwards admits that her crew is

not as strong physically as its rivals, but overcomes this by finding better ways of tackling the harder jobs on board. "A task that takes four men may require five women, but no one has ever minded getting up on deck to help."

And what is to follow once this race is over? "I certainly won't do this race again; I will have nothing to prove. We are writing a book [which is being serialized in *The Sunday Times*] about the race, and after that I want to take up flying helicopters," Simon Lawrence, the fiancé she left back home in Hampshire, paid for an initial two-hour lesson last year — "in the hope that it would put me off" — but after a spin with King Hussein in his own helicopter Edwards has been well and truly bitten by the aviation bug.

First, however, there is the little business of rounding Cape Horn and completing the Whitbread race back to Southampton next May. "We have a long way to go, but I have never been more confident in the boat and crew," she said.

No way to say goodbye

Revenge is chic, even for an MP, as the courts heard all last week. And when it's not tragic, it can be highly comic

I once wrote a short story about an affair which was ruined by the man's possessive mother. At the end, the vengeful girlfriend crept round in the dusk, lured the old virago's show poodle into the garden and cut off its pom-pom. Pure fantasy, of course; but not long afterwards I met a girl who demanded to know how I had found out her story. She had not, it transpired, desecrated a poodle but a fleecy Afghan hound. Her former lover bred them, and the night she found out about his other mistress she gently shampooed his potential Crufts champion — with cold-water fast dye, in vivid greens and purples.

When it comes to the fury of women (and men) scorned, fiction has a hard time keeping up with reality. For every witty revenge dreamed up by a novelist or a playwright, you can find a dozen more in the newspaper files. Cutting up a man's trousers is a favourite device in local-rep farces; but only last year there were stirring tales circulating that, in one famous case, Pamela Burdett had done precisely that. Writing *LOVE* on mirrors and smashing them would fit with equal grace into a torrid Andrea Newman mini-series or a dubious sitcom; yet all last week we were treated to allegations that a British MP had done just that. *Fatal Attraction* made a box-office smash out of psychopathic behaviour by an ex-mistress, including serving up the family's pet rabbit; but even nastier things turn up weekly in the law courts.

One prefers to pass hastily over the more unpleasant forms of lovers' revenge: the girl who felled her boyfriend by serving him a "civilized" last meal of ham which she had kept for a week in the airing cupboard, the poisoning of pet animals, and worst of all the vicious use of children — either by snatching them abroad to punish a wife, or by insidiously turning them against an absent father. That way lies only tragedy; but if you want comedy, the field is actually far richer.

The straightforward blow to the wallet is the most obvious form of revenge. British Telecom must be laughing if there is any truth in even half the stories about wronged partners ringing up the Zambian speaking clock and leaving the receiver off before locking up the flat for a fortnight.

'Girls have a tendency to strike like puff-adders at a man's pride'

And information technology has brought new potential horrors: throwing a workaholic's Filofax in the river is nothing compared to what you could do to her floppy disks with a magnet or a computer virus. So far there are few reports of that nature, although there is an unverifiable rumour of a furious, jilted secretary who faxed some very compromising pictures direct to her beloved's strait-laced European chairman.

Women seem, by anecdotal evidence, more prone to such revenge than men (who, when not breaking things, chiefly specialize in spreading nasty stories in a deceptively caring tone — as in: "She needs help, but she won't get treatment"). In particular, girls have a tendency to strike like puff-adders at a man's pride, presumably because he has done such damage to theirs. It may shock the innocent to hear that not every stripper-groom is sent by a well-wisher. A former 20-stone rotolypogram once told me how she was recruited by "a rather nervous, jumpy woman", which made her suspicious; but it was only at the last minute she discovered she was about to burst into — in a black suspender belt — was a parochial church council meeting, and her target a curate.

So after the gathering she was about to burst into — in a black suspender belt — was a parochial church council meeting, and her target a curate.

Ron Brown case fiction has more distance to catch up. There are some good ideas around: in *Behaving Badly* Dame Judi Dench deploys the ultimate ex-wife's weapon of simply moving back into the family home and ganging up with the new wife on her husband. In Shirley Lowe's and Angela Ince's book, *Swapping*, the jilted housewife sets up an advertising agency and takes over her ex-husband's best account, getting him sacked. And in *Coronation Street*, bespectacled Deirdre Barlow discovered that she legally owns half of Ken's beloved local newspaper, on which he is working with his new yuppie mistress.

What will she do? It would be boring merely to bankrupt him. Perhaps she could demand editorial equality and fill the *Weatherfield Recorder* with reviews of feminist tracts. Or she might donate her shares to the Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh to further his educational mission. Given a fair wind and a good groove, the possibilities are endless.

Libby Purves

Gold of the Vikings

In York the lion of commerce lies down with the lamb of archaeology, Nigel Andrews as found at the Viking Centre in the city.

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MEDIA & MARKETING

A year filled by cameras and guns

Next week a dozen colleagues join me to try to sort out the winners for this year's Royal Television Society Journalism awards. The awards, reflecting work done in 1989, will then be formally presented at a private screening and dinner, which is not without an obvious added tension. It takes a certain skill to sit idly by, plumped up and drink-laden, applauding pictures of the latest famine in Ethiopia, or the horror of Hillsborough.

Year-on-year comparison of what the various television organisations chose to enter is revealing. Whereas once most work was the product of one reporter and crew attending an occasion or event, nowadays the flexibility of equipment, coupled with the world-wide use of swift satellite transmission, has pushed team work to the fore.

Although British television cannot match the Americans for either money or manpower, it still manages to put a formidable number of troops in the field, from Tiananmen Square to Timisoara. Anyone who saw the recent fine review of Sir Robin Day's career, which included much of his pioneering overseas reporting, could not fail to note the contrast. The heavier investment matches an increased sense of newsworthiness, or at least of the feeling that the public should be given news most of the time. No terrestrial television broadcaster yet offers a round-the-clock on-air news operation, as do Sky and the American Cable News Network, CNN.

However, as Kate Adie pointed out in a post-Tiananmen after-dinner talk, for the reporter in the field what the BBC and ITN now offer amounts to much the same thing. The machines keep running. Adie also noted that a fresh set of problems arise for the reporter at the scene. When, in the context of a 24-hour operation, is the "deadline"? More specifically, when do you stop filming, go back to base, and prepare, polish and transmit what you have shot, anxiously aware that your rival, operating on a different schedule, may have held out for better? Of course, this problem has been present ever since the BBC monopoly was broken by ITN, but nowadays the greater camera presence, coupled with increased transmission, seem to make the outcome more visible.

More visible, too, is the extent to which camera and crowd interact, so that political change seems to be brought about or not by, with, and through, the

camera. Individual journalists are, therefore, in constant danger of becoming part of the action. But, even in a year of tumultuous upset and surprise, on-the-ground reporters kept a crucial distance.

To my eye, the London-based newsreaders also wobbled from time to time, displaying flashes of simple-minded Western optimism. The flavour lay somewhere between that of an election-night studio romp and the rivalry of the Eurovision Song contest. Bulgaria: *deux points*. Albania: *nul point*. For democracy? Easy endorsement-by-association of what the camera may do needs to be kept in check. Remember, as we applaud the "popular" uprisings in Eastern Europe, that such manifestations have been less welcome in, say, Northern Ireland. Note, too, that the camera did not prove mightier than the bullet in Peking, and it was a close thing in Bucharest. Just as it has always been simplistic to blame the collapse of the American effort in Vietnam on television, so, too, it is easy to credit television today with too great a role. Clearly television has accentuated mat-

ters, and has acted as an accelerator. But it is not itself the trigger. The Romanian episode, and coverage of it, was important in a more prosaic sense. In mid-year the BBC had clearly outlasted ITN in Peking; in Bucharest the boot was on the other foot. The levelling-up of fortune has been particularly timely. This week the Commons committee on the Broadcasting Bill begins its deliberations.

The Bill includes provision that the new-model Channel 3 contains news and an established news provider or providers, but it still leaves room for doubt about adequacy and methods of funding. The ITN system has often been something of a pain to ITV managing directors, who grumble about escalating costs. The sad truth is that anyone wanting to keep abreast of reportorial developments will be obliged to spend high.

In journalism, you are either on the spot, or you are not. If you are, the work will be first-hand. If not, you can only reflect at one remove; you cannot authenticate. Any medium-sized country that takes television seriously should be able to afford at least two well-funded and free-standing sources of authentication, and, therefore, of cross-referencing. The last days of 1989 hammered the point home.

BROADCAST

Brian Wenham

A woman's own rise

It is said that she never loses a fight, but Bridget Rowe's new role takes her to a different front, Sally Brompton says

The electronic red sign flashing in the foyer of International Publishing Corporation's magazine headquarters yesterday read: "Bridget Rowe to edit *TV Times*, Keith McNeill to edit *Woman's Own*." After four years in the editor's chair of *Woman's Own*, Rowe, aged 39, is leaving the cut-throat world of women's magazines to move into the no less cut-throat world of television publishing at a time when the listings battle is about to explode.

Her departure means that, for the first time, the two flagships of IPC's women's magazine empire — *Woman's Own* and *Woman's Own* — will be edited by men. Significantly, both Keith McNeill, aged 36, and David Durman, 41, *Woman's Own* editor for the past two years, have worked as Rowe's "incredibly loyal" deputies on *Woman's Own*, a fact which Rowe regards as an accolade to her own steady rise up the magazine hierarchy.

"If David hadn't been made editor of *Woman's Own* and Keith hadn't been made editor of *Woman's Own*, I think I would have taken it very personally," Rowe says. "I would have been very upset because I think they both deserve it and are absolutely the right people for those jobs."

To suggest, in true women's magazine style, that Rowe taught "her boys" everything they know would clearly be a libellous exaggeration. Nevertheless, Rowe, a highly-regarded professional in the mass magazine market, admits: "I do think it's part of an editor's job to help and encourage deputies. In some ways it is a harder job than being editor because you often get the rotten bits and you do have to pick up the pieces a lot. And it's so important for an editor to have a strong deputy with a loud voice, otherwise the editor can be like a runaway train."

She enjoyed some splendid rows with both Durman and McNeill and also, no doubt, with Richard Barber, her former deputy on *Woman's Own* and former editor of *Woman's Own*, whom she is now replacing as editor of *TV Times*. "The great thing about it was



Moving: Bridget Rowe's *TV Times* post brings changes for former deputies Keith McNeill (left) and David Durman

"I think it's part of an editor's job to encourage deputies. In some ways it is a harder job than being editor because you have to pick up the pieces. It's important to have a strong deputy, otherwise the editor can be like a runaway train"

that neither David nor Keith would ever let me nod off and I wouldn't ever let them nod off."

Durman recalls a "blazing row" with Rowe six months after he joined *Woman's Own*. "I was feeling very fed up with her and sorry for myself when she said, 'just because we're rowing doesn't mean we can't have a drink, and she opened her fridge and produced a bottle of champagne, and I thought 'here's a lady with style'." Even so, neither he nor McNeill can remember winning an argument with Rowe. "Bridget always wins a fight," Durman says.

The daughter of a former director of W.H. Smith, Rowe did a business course before joining *She* as the office junior, where her job included looking

after the editor's goat. She progressed up the sub-editors' tables of *She*, 19, and *Club* — IPC's short-lived magazine for men — moving into the editor's chairs of *Woman's Own*, *Sunday* and then *Woman's Own*, with a brief interlude on *The Sun* as assistant editor (features).

She has still to plan her onslaught upon the proposed deregulated world of television listings. "I have no idea what the current situation is," she says. "The whole thing is very complicated and something I will obviously get my brain round in the next couple of weeks." Already a devoted fan of *Coronation Street*, she intends to widen her television viewing over the coming months. "I adore getting my dressing-gown on and

putting my feet up and watching a jolly good film on telly."

She feels that she has made *Woman's Own* more socially aware during her editorship, with campaigns such as that to improve conditions for rape victims, and last summer's "green" issue. "Woman's Own" readers are carers and slightly stronger in their opinions than *Woman's Own* readers," she claims, acknowledging the in-house competition between the two magazines which "builds up every now and again into us shutting lift doors on each other. Since David has been editing *Woman's Own*, we've been able to double-think each other. There's a lot of bluff and counter-bluff, but it's good sport."

She will miss the daily cut-and-thrust with both Durman and McNeill. "If they've picked up anything from me I hope it is that you can commit yourself to something and work incredibly hard but have enormous fun doing it," Durman describes her as "the most exciting person I've ever worked with", while McNeill speaks of her "infectious enthusiasm" and stubbornness. Both agree that "she chooses her men well". "I think she lives a lie," Durman says, "because she's an old softy, really."



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MEDIA & MARKETING

Raising the West's voice?

At the height of the Cold War, millions of people throughout the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe tuned into radio stations funded by the CIA to find out what was happening in their own country.

Since 1951, Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, two American stations based in Munich, have broadcast non-stop into the Soviet bloc with the aim of undermining Communist rule. "We're not ashamed to be regarded as subversive by an authoritarian government," says Iain Elliott, associate director of Radio Liberty.

However, Elliott, says that all programmes are objective and balanced, providing an alternative version of events to the heavily censored state-controlled media.

Voice of America, funded by the American government, and the BBC's World Service, perform a different role. Voice of America is heard mainly in Western Europe and extols the virtues of American life. As an information provider, the BBC World Service broadcasts to Eastern Europe regardless of the political complexion.

The BBC, does however, respond to requests for information from listeners on subjects such as parliamentary democracy and free-enterprise economics.

Alistair Fraser looks at the changing role of radio in the Eastern bloc

But Barry Elliott, head of Central European Services, rejects the idea that the BBC is lecturing its listeners. "You can perform a didactic role, but it's better to have discussions. We're not trying to force opinions down people's throats."

With the recent upheaval in political regimes, it would be reasonable to assume Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty have done their job and can switch off the transmitters. Their presence now could even seem provocative, inflaming old tensions that the superpowers wish to bury.

Exactly how much the stations can contribute to *détente* now is open to question, and some members of the United States Congress, which took over funding them in 1971 after the CIA link became an open secret, might be wondering if the annual subsidy, which is worth about £121 million, could be better spent elsewhere.

If so, the worries are not

shared by Gene Pell, president of both Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. Far from winding down and preparing for redundancy, Pell is increasing the output. Over Christmas the former NBC correspondent expanded broadcasts to Romania from six to 24 hours a day.

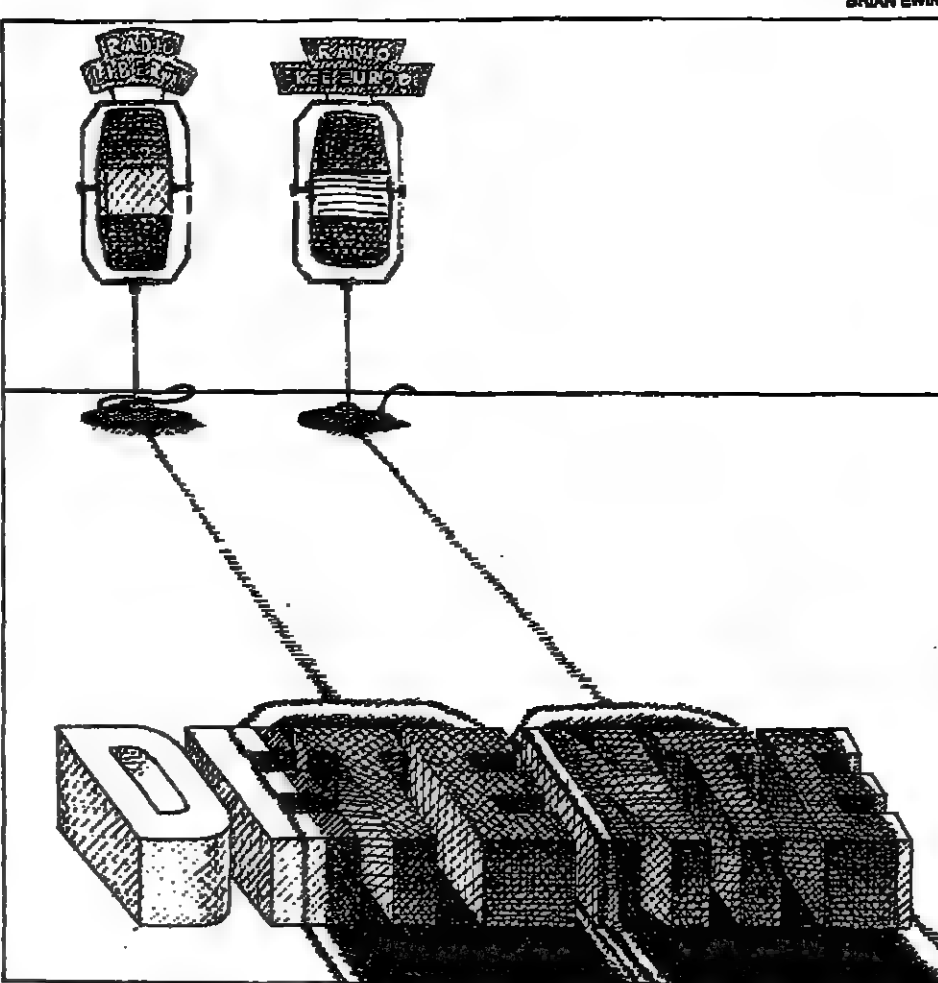
Programming has also changed. Following the breakdown of Communist rule, correspondents now operate more or less openly in every country instead of relying on clandestine reports, news from expatriates and monitoring the state media. Soviet papers, Pell says, praise the stations for their coverage, and he claims government officials are now willing to be interviewed.

Radio Liberty broadcasts into the Soviet Union. Radio Free Europe beams into Eastern Europe and also targets Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, which the United States refuses to recognize as Soviet republics.

The two stations air programmes in 21 languages to a listening audience of 50 million.

Their regular diet of talk shows is now supplemented by a new range of programmes, guiding listeners on such subjects as how to write a constitution, build free trade unions and run a stock market.

With 1,300 staff in the



Munich headquarters, they make their own programmes, using correspondents who are largely naturalized Americans of Eastern European origin.

The stations now face, for the first time, the possibility of competition from native-run radio free from state manipulation. It remains to be seen whether the liberalization of the media in their own countries will tempt correspondents back. Bob Redlich, director of public affairs for the two stations, says this is a possibility, although none has gone yet.

Far from accepting that the increase in output could be counter-productive, Pell claims to have had direct appeals from Solidarity's Lech Walcsa and the new Czech president, Vaclav Havel, to maintain the broadcasts.

He is also unlikely to close the stations while the Soviet Union is taking its first small steps towards democracy. It no longer jams the broadcasts and has not interfered in the coverage of events.

As recently as last week, the protests in troubled Azerbaijan showed why indepen-

dent media are still needed. Foreign journalists were barred from the republic and, in true Brezhnevite fashion, Tass blamed the disturbances on druged hooligans.

Pell agrees, though, that his days are numbered if the countries continue to move towards Western-style democracy. "When certain criteria are met, such as freedom of speech, free press and elections, I'll be the first to stand up, applaud and then leave."

● Alistair Fraser is a staff member of Campaign.

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Ad agencies' high hopes

Forget gloomy predictions and watch spending continue, say the optimists

The latest advertising expenditure figures from the Advertising Association, predicting that 1990 might be the industry's worst year in nearly a decade, are being regarded by advertising agencies as being excessively bleak.

Gloomy forecasts have dogged the industry ever since companies started to trim advertising budgets in line with the economy. This led to a rash of redundancies in almost all the bigger British-based agencies.

The association sounded the first alarm bells in August, forecasting that advertising expenditure — expected to be £7.6 billion last year — would slow to an inflation-adjusted growth of 1 per cent in 1990, against a 4 per cent rise in 1989.

Now a slowing of consumer spending and corporate profits growth, said by the association to be the economic variables most affecting advertising, has prompted the association to revise its original estimate and predict that advertising spending will drop to minus 1 per cent this year.

The association's spokesman adds that the depressed property market has cast a shadow over display and recruitment advertising, which could also have serious results for agency profits.

Agencies disagree. "There should be enough business around to keep revenues static," says John Horner, chairman of HDM Horner Collis & Kirvan. "A lot of agencies are hiding behind the theory of a recession to get rid of unwanted staff, although there is no doubt that companies are looking to make their advertising pound work harder."

Horner says recent redundancies at agencies such as Saatchi & Saatchi and Ogilvy & Mather are a long-overdue fat-trimming exercise.

David Forster, advertising analyst at Kleinwort Benson, the broker, agrees, although he believes more cuts are coming. He says: "What is going on is a reasonably healthy process of cost control, akin to what has already started to take place in the City. But a downturn in business is forcing agencies to abandon the global visions they had in the 1980s for a more inward-looking view."

Agencies insist that, although large advertisers have cut their budgets to reflect the reduction in high street business, some companies are still spending heavily.

Woolworth, for instance, which spent £10 million on advertising in 1988, put the same amount aside for advertising last year, most of it spent in the Christmas run-up. This led many agencies to believe that the hard landing being forecast is more likely to be a soft one. Last month the troubled Saatchi & Saatchi advertising, has

ing network gave its own very different figures. These estimated that spending will rise by 6.4 per cent this year, going up to 9.2 per cent in 1992, against the 7.8 per cent rise in 1989. "This decade advertising will pick up," Saatchi says.

Many agencies are relying on large advertisers such as Procter & Gamble spending their way through crises. They say that in the 1973 recession advertisers who walked away from advertising suffered.

However, Stephen Ward, Cadbury Schweppes's marketing director, believes that companies adjust their expenditure to cope with high interest rates and lack of sales, advertising will be one of the first areas to go. "It is only at the margin end that it becomes valuable and I can't agree that advertising volumes will be sustained," he says.

Nicola Chapman

In 1990 there should be the business to maintain our revenues

How the high-speed clippings services have cashed in on big business

Short cut to a paper fortune

1979 (when the Government privatized Whitehall's in-house cuttings service) to one turning over some £3 million a year, according to Martin Pearson of Standard Press Analysts.

Pearson says the business is still growing fast, and is vital for the effective handling of mergers and acquisitions, crisis management and environmental issues.

But though much in demand, the services have some critics. Simon

Lewis, head of group public relations for S.G. Warburg, prefers to rely on an in-house library. "Cuttings services can't compete," he says. "People who do the cutting have no qualitative judgement."

Vivian Marcy, director in charge of crisis management at Kingsway Rowland PR, says: "They can't move fast enough if you are running a crisis, press coverage has to be not just received, but analysed by 8am."

In contrast to wire services such as Reuters, this is a low-tech business, relying on readers who start with the first editions in the middle of the night and read until dawn; who cut out, photocopy and paste.

The cuttings services respond to criticisms by insisting that if they get things wrong, it is because they are not properly briefed. Angela Webb, of Press Express, a new high-speed section of Britain's largest

press cuttings agency, Romeike and Curcio, says: "Clients are scared to stick an exclusion on anything, in case it just happens to be the cutting they need. But we encourage clients to talk to their account executives."

The way seems open for someone to introduce a more hi-tech service. But Nick Browning, chief executive of Standard Press Analysts, doubts whether the market is, in fact, ready. "It's essential to know what an article looks like — how big the photograph was and so on. Even if the technology were available for direct access into newspapers, and I could replicate what we do down the telephone line, I don't believe the markets would really want it."

Geraldine Bedell

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High water mark

January and London may not be an ideal combination for many, but for lovers of drawings and watercolours there are attractions enough to offset the weather and post-festive depression. The annual show of the English School at Agnew's in Old Bond Street always began at the end of the month, running through February, but this year's exhibition will open on March 12. The reason for the break with tradition is the success of a newcomer, the World of Drawings and Watercolours fair in the Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly. The fair this year will have only one participant from overseas, Sven Bruntjen from California, because the organizers have been careful to balance the various periods and styles, and there are about 50 exhibitors with differing fields of expertise.

It is not only a feast for devotees of English watercolours. Of course, the core is the English School, with a good number of specialists in the earlier works as well as the Victorian period, but there are also Old Master and modern drawings from many countries. An indication of the success of the fair was the way in which the main sale rooms, Sotheby's and Christie's - normally in hibernation at this time - organized watercolour sales on its coat-tails last year. This was not entirely satisfactory for them, because many dealers and collectors were tied up at the fair. This year, Christie's is not repeating the experiment, but Sotheby's has a sale at Bond Street on January 31, and will also offer watercolours at Billingshurst, West Sussex, on January 16.

The fair will be opened on

Watercolours and other works on paper are steadily regaining public popularity, as a fair entering its fifth year illustrates

January 24 by an eminent artist, John Ward, RA, who is not just a well-known portrait painter in oil, but an effective landscape painter in watercolour.

The fair continues until January 28, and there will be two lectures. Works on sale are expected to cost from £50 to six-figure sums. As is usual at leading art and antiques fairs, there will be a loan exhibition at the heart of it, this year from one of the best private collections of Pre-Raphaelite drawings in the country.

Will this exhibition boost the sales of such Pre-Raphaelite and

Victorian-fancying dealers as Jeremy Maas, chairman of the fair, Julian Hartnoll, Christopher Wood, Peter Nahum and Chris Beetles?

The last of these had been intending to organize a parallel exhibition in his St James's gallery devoted to the Old Watercolour Society, but the publication of the book that was to accompany it has been put back to June, so Beetles is concentrating his efforts on the this month's fair.

The "Old", now Royal, Society was founded in 1805, in the middle of what for many purists is

the high period of the English School. J.R. Cozens and Thomas Girtin were dead, but Turner, Cotman, Cox, Varley and de Wint were at an early stage in their careers. Because they were cut off from the artistic influences of the European Continent, and in particular the neo-classicism of Imperial France, they developed a force and technical virtuosity that astonished the European painters after Waterloo.

Before and after the Napoleonic Wars, however, contacts between the British and Continental Schools were close, and it will be quite natural to find works by the Dane Nicholas Dall, RA, the Swiss Samuel Hieronymus Grimm or the Frenchman Louis Francia on the stands of such "Early English" specialists as Anthony Reed, William Drummond, Maryn Gregory and Mark Fisher. For the 17th and 18th centuries, as seen in the Inigo Jones show at the Royal Academy, it can be pointless to try to draw the boundaries too clearly between English and Continental Old Masters.

A further example of this cultural crossing will be seen next month in Sotheby's sale of topographical paintings and watercolours on February 16, which includes a collection of 72 Mediterranean views by Luigi Mayer, an Italian-trained German.

Between 1776 and 1792, he toured the Ottoman Empire on behalf of the British ambassador, Sir Robert Ainslie. His work is excellent as an example of the pre-revolutionary style common to much of Europe.

● Huon Mallalieu is editor of the quarterly magazine, *Watercolours & Drawings*.



A 1791 watercolour by the witty Thomas Rowlandson, about 8in x 11in, which will be on sale at £8,500

Selected events, January 10 to February 6. Auctions start at 11am unless otherwise stated.

To Jan 20: View of the Harper Collection of shell-related material. Auction Jan 24, 25, Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, W1 (01-629 6602).

To Jan 21: Exhibition of the al-Tajer collection of gold and silver, Christie's, King Street, SW1 (01-839 9000).

Jan 13: Sale of jewels, Sotheby's, Billingshurst, West Sussex.

Jan 11: Sale of cameras and photographs, Christie's South Kensington, Old Brompton Road, SW7, 2pm.

Jan 11-12: Northern Ireland Antiques Dealers' Fair, Cuffe Manor House, Holywood, County Down (0537 832029).

Jan 12-14: West & Wales Ceramics Fair, Two Rivers Hotel, Chesham, Gwent, Wales (05474 464).

Jan 13-14: North Cotswold An-

OTHER SHOWS

Sotheby's, Billingshurst, West Sussex. Jan 18 & 19: General sale, including pictures, Graves, son & Pitcher, Holland Road, Hove, East Sussex, 10.30am and 2pm each day.

Jan 18-21: West London Antiques Fair, Kensington Town Hall, Horton Street, W8 (04447 2514).

Jan 25-Feb 2: Exhibition of Kakiemon porcelain from country houses, Christie's, King Street, SW1 (01-839 9000).

Jan 25: Sale of wine, Christie's, King Street, SW1.

Jan 26: 10.30am: Sale of militaria, Christie's, South Kensington.

Jan 26-28: Lancashire Antiques Dealers' Fair, Winter Gardens, Blackpool (0937 832029).

Jan 26-28: Ceramics fair, Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, W1 (0634 723461).

Jan 31: Sale of toys, Sotheby's, Bond Street, W1.

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DIVERSIONS AND DELIGHTS: Oscar Wilde looks back on his life in Donald Sinden's one-man show. Limited season. Playhouse Theatre, Northumberland Ave, WC2 (01-839 4401). Tue: 8pm. Emmenton. Previews from tonight. 8pm. Opens Jan 16/17pm. Then Mon-Sat 8pm, 2.5-11.5.

★ **HEDDA GABLER:** Elizabeth Quinn, Richard O'Callaghan in new adaptation of Ibsen's screaming marital drama. King's Head Theatre, 115 Upper St, N1 (01-226 1916). Tue: 8pm. Highbury and Islington. Opens tonight 7.15-9.30pm, then Tue-Sat 7.45-10pm, mats Sat 3.30-5.45pm and Sun 3-5.15pm. Tue, Wed and mats 27; Thurs Fri and Sat eve 28. Dinner 6.45pm (night 8.15pm, 27).

★ **THE HUMAN VOICES:** Susannah York in Coccia's celebrated monologue for woman and telephone. Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage, NW3 (01-722 9224). Tue: Swiss Cottage, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat 4.5pm. Mon 8.15pm. Tue-Fri and mats 26, Sat eve 27. For one week only.

★ **KRAPP'S LAST TAPE/CATARACTS:** David Warrell in a most successful Backlot double-bill. Cattermole, uniquely political for this author, is dedicated to David Warrell. Riverside Studios, Cran Rd, W6 (01-748 3354). Tue: Hammanham. Mon-Sat 8pm, 2.5-11.5.

★ **A LIFE IN THE THEATRE:** Danholm Elliott and Samuel West in Mame's study of an old actor and his ambitious junior: the players stronger than the play. Strand Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (01-836 2600). Tue: Covent Garden. Tue-Sat 8pm. Mats Thurs, Sat and Sun 4.30pm, 2.5-11.5.

★ **THE PELICAN:** Second in this theatre's occasional series of theatre's occasional series. A chamber play, this one melodramatic, a chamber play, this one melodramatic, a chamber play, this one melodramatic. Prince Albert Pub, 111 Parnridge Rd, W11 (01-225 0706). Previews tonight 8.45pm. Opens tomorrow 8.45pm, then Mon-Sat 8-9.45pm, 2.5.

★ **SCENES FROM AN EXECUTION:** Glenda Jackson's return to the stage as the Renaissance painter pursuing her campaign for truth in Howard Barker's prizewinning, opening the new Almeida Theatre Company's season. Almeida Theatre, Almeida St, N1 (01-359 4404). Tue: Highbury and Islington. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats 4pm, Mon 2.5-11.5, 2.5-11.5. Other evening performances 8.50-11.50. Mats 2.5-11.5.

★ **SEVEN LEAGUES:** Howard Barker's prequel to Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, a play about misadventure and mischief. Excellent performance by Nicholas Le Prevost and the Wrecking School. Royal Court Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-730 1745). Tue: Swan St, Mon-Sat 8-10.45pm. Mon 24; Tue-Sat, Mon 25-27.

TELEVISION TOP 10

Based on 10 programmes in the week ending Dec 31:

Rank	Programme	Channel
1	Crossroads 21.7m	BBC 1
2	Neighbours (Wed 19/12/89) 20.8m	BBC 1
3	EastEnders (Thurs 14/12/89) 20.7m	BBC 1
4	Only Fools and Horses 20.2m	BBC 1
5	Neighbours (Thurs 14/12/89) 20.0m	BBC 1
6	Neighbours (Fri 15/12/89) 19.3m	BBC 1
7	Brookside 18.5m	BBC 1
8	Rust About Christmas Show 18.0m	BBC 1
9	EastEnders (Sun 10/12/89) 17.8m	BBC 1
10	Teletext 15.0m	BBC 1

Channel 4
1 Coronation Street (Wed/Sat 21.5m)
2 Coronation Street (Mon/Wed 20.8m)
3 Coronation Street (Fri/Sat 19.1m)
4 The 100th Hour 18.0m
5 The 100th Hour 18.0m
6 The 100th Hour 18.0m
7 The 100th Hour 18.0m
8 The 100th Hour 18.0m
9 The 100th Hour 18.0m
10 The 100th Hour 18.0m

Channel 5
1 The 100th Hour 18.0m
2 The 100th Hour 18.0m
3 The 100th Hour 18.0m
4 The 100th Hour 18.0m
5 The 100th Hour 18.0m
6 The 100th Hour 18.0m
7 The 100th Hour 18.0m
8 The 100th Hour 18.0m
9 The 100th Hour 18.0m
10 The 100th Hour 18.0m

Channel 6
1 The 100th Hour 18.0m
2 The 100th Hour 18.0m
3 The 100th Hour 18.0m
4 The 100th Hour 18.0m
5 The 100th Hour 18.0m
6 The 100th Hour 18.0m
7 The 100th Hour 18.0m
8 The 100th Hour 18.0m
9 The 100th Hour 18.0m
10 The 100th Hour 18.0m

Channel 7
1 The 100th Hour 18.0m
2 The 100th Hour 18.0m
3 The 100th Hour 18.0m
4 The 100th Hour 18.0m
5 The 100th Hour 18.0m
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Pipped at the post

Andrew Shore plays the old hypocrite who is teased into marriage and set again in the title role of a new production of *Don Quixote* for Opera North, which opens in Leeds tomorrow. Don Quixote's opera buff, with its three acts of marital intrigue and deception, is in the tradition of commedia dell'arte, in new to Opera North's repertoire, and arrives just in time to pip Covent Garden's February revival at the post. Patrick Hines, who directs, makes his home debut. Most of his theatre work has been done in Ireland, at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, and at the Grand Opera, though visitors to Wexford will recognize him from last October's *La Traviata* and, earlier, *Don Quixote* there.

Don Quixote set this, his last great comic opera, in 19th-century Rome: this production plans to juxtapose past and present, as stages of classical Rome act as a backdrop to the costumes and manners of 1990. David Lloyd Jones conducts a cast which includes good value. Judith Howarth as the young widow, Norina, Adrian Martin as her lover, Ernesto, and Robert Hayward as the scheming Don Quixote. *Don Quixote*, Leeds (0532 459351), 7.15-9.45pm, £5-11.

Hilary Faith

FIELD OF DREAMS (PG): Kevin Costner as a farmer encouraged by a celestial voice to use his cornfield for a baseball pitch (100 min).
Cannon Film (01-370 2636).
Progs 2.15, 6.15, 8.15.
Cannon Home Video (01-836 1527).
Progs 1.10, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30 (Closed Sun).

THE LINDSEYS (12): A routine story of delinquent teenagers in the films with Kylie Minogue. (50 min).
Cannon Film (01-370 2636).
Progs 2.15, 6.15, 8.15.
Cannon Home Video (01-836 1527).
Progs 1.10, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30 (Closed Sun).

THE DREAM TEAM (12): A routine story of delinquent teenagers in the films with Kylie Minogue. (50 min).
Cannon Film (01-370 2636).
Progs 2.15, 6.15, 8.15.
Cannon Home Video (01-836 1527).
Progs 1.10, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30 (Closed Sun).

MYSTERY TRAIN (12): Mostly delicious episode film from the unique, folk-rock Jim Jarmusch, focussed on the overnight visitors at a Memphis hotel. With Yoko Ono, Screamin' Jay Hawkins (113 min).
Lumiere (01-856 0891) Film at 1.40, 4.00, 6.25, 8.50. Late Fri, Sat 11.15.

OLIVER AND COMPANY (U): Animated Disney feature, inspired by Dickens's *Oliver Twist*. (74 min).
Notting Hill Cinema (01-727 6705).
Progs 2.30, 4.25.
Odéon Kensington (01-602 6544/5).
Progs 12.05, 2.15, 4.30 (not Sun), 8.30 (not Sun).

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Progs 12.05, 2.15, 4.30 (not Sun), 8.30 (not Sun).



Intrigue: Andrew Shore (left) and Robert Hayward (right) in rehearsal

Compiled by Leslie Walton
and Gillian Maxey

TELEVISION & RADIO

The bitter
fruits of
religion

Peter Waymark

With a largely female cast and an all-female production team of writer Jeannette Winterson, producer Philippa Giles and director Bebban Kidron, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* (BBC2, 9.25pm) should go some way towards stilling the criticism about lack of opportunity for women in television. Whether the result will be to universal taste is another matter, since the piece touches centrally on the sensitive areas of religion and a lesbian relationship.



Bible-bashing: Geraldine McEwan (left) and Emily Aston (BBC2, 9.25pm)

Adapted by Winterson from her loosely autobiographical novel which won the 1985 Whitbread Prize, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* charts a young girl's childhood in Lancashire in the definitively unswerving 1960s. Little Jess grows up against the repressive background of puritan religion, dinned into her by an adoptive mother who sees sin round every corner. Deprived of young company Jess is forced to tag along with Mother's bible-bashing cronies, among whom the 82-year-old Elsie is the nearest thing to a friend. Even school is likened to "the sink if I didn't put the bleach down it". If tonight's opening episode tends to make the same point rather too often, and also lapses into caricature, there are ample compensations. One is a leavening of humour with such priceless lines of dialogue as "You can tell a good woman by her sandwiches" and "You don't need an astringent when you've got Jess". The other delights are Geraldine McEwan's Lancashire matriarch, a precocious performance by young Emily Aston as Jess, and a fondly and astutely supporting cast which recalls the feminine contingent of *Last of the Summer Wine*.

It is ironic that a programme which raises questions about the regulation of television should itself fall foul of the Independent Broadcasting Authority. Only Joking (Channel 4, 11.00pm) was due to have been transmitted in the autumn, but pulled out, and now appears late in the evening with the warning that some viewers may find it shocking. The controversial item in a survey of alternative comedy on both sides of the Atlantic is a performance by an American stand-up comic whose outrageously racist and sexist material is beamed into 17 million homes. The programme asks whether as television moves towards deregulation it could happen here and, if so, how far it should be censored.

- BBC 1**
- 8.00 *Coastal*
8.30 *BBC Breakfast News* with Nicholas Wittebol and Laurie Meyer. Includes news headlines every 15 minutes, regular sports bulletins, weather, regional news and travel, and a look at the morning papers with Paul Cullen 8.55 Regional news and weather
- 9.00 News and weather followed by *Open Air* with Eamonn Holmes and Jayne Irving. To contribute ring 051 614 0424
- 9.20 *Kilroy*. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject
- 10.00 News and weather followed by *Going for Gold* (r)
- 10.25 *Children's BBC*, with Simon Parkin, starts with *Playdays*. *The Dot Stop* (r) 10.30 *Paddington Bear*. *Dumpy-Pass Day* (r)
- 10.55 *Five to Eleven* with Eileen Atkins
- 11.00 News and weather followed by *Open Air*, including a report on the London Boat Show
- 12.00 News and weather followed by *Twelve Live*. Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Spath are joined by Sue Kirtzman with her *San Cuisine* 12.15 Regional News and weather
- 1.00 One O'Clock News with Martin Lewis followed by *Weather* with John Kettleby
- 1.30 *Neighbours*. Mrs Mangel shocks her son when she blames him for ruining her life. At the summer home, Sharon decides to teach Mrs Mangel a lesson. (Contest)
- 1.40 *Going for Gold*. Quiz hosted by Harry Kelly
- 2.15 *Knots Landing*. To *Sing His Praise*, Emerson runs high at Joshua's funeral. Stars Joan Van Ark and Ted Shackelford
- 3.00 *Primetime Live*. Shelia McCallum talks to puppeteer Des Turner, and Miriam O'Callaghan reports on the plight of imported parrots
- 3.25 *Twelve Live*. *Shogun* *May/Puss 'n' Boots*
- 3.40 *Children's BBC*, presented by Andy Crane, starts with *Dooby Dick's Disco* 3.55 *Reptile* and *The Secret Book* (r) 4.00 *Nick and Lisa*. (Contest)
- There's chaos in the bedroom 4.10 *SuperTed*. *Phantom of the Grand Old Opry* 4.25 *Ten in a Bed*. A *Kiss*, narrated by Victoria Wood (r)
- 4.35 *Ten in a Bed*. *The Incredible Shrinking Turles*. The first of a four-part series. 5.00 *Newsworld* 5.10 *Little Sir Nicholas*. 5.25 *Neighbours*. A chance to see the episode shown earlier today. (Contest)
- 5.40 *Six O'Clock News* with Anne Ford and Andrew Harvey, followed by *Weather* with Suzanne Charlton
- 6.30 *Newsworld* South East
- 7.00 *Wogan*
- 7.30 *Fanny Hill*. Stars in *Their Eyes* document the way advertisers use children for film commercials and catalogues. Bill Hanrahan talks to the parents who put their children through the tough competition, rigorous auditions and long working hours, and asks whether the price of fame and fortune is too high. A studio discussion on the subject follows
- 8.00 *Dallas*. *Cry Me a River of Oil*. JR's scheming ways drag him into dangerous financial waters. Calli finds out about JR's meetings with April Stevens; and Michelle plays on Cliff Barnes's vulnerability to win her way with him. Stars Larry Hagman, Patrick Duffy and Kim Cattrall
- 8.55 *Points of View* with Anne Robinson
- 9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Martin Lewis, followed by *Regional News* and weather
- 9.30 *GED*. *Sweet FA* looks at the predicament of victims of the fatal spinal disease Friedrich's Ataxia, and focuses on the plight of Alan Jones, who has already lost his brother and sister to the hereditary illness. The programme tells of his own physical pain, and the unceasing search for a cure in the face of limited government backing
- 10.00 *Sportsworld*. *Steve Rider* introduces the line-up featuring the FA Cup third-round replays, the welterweight boxing bout between Britain's Kirkland Laing and America's Luis Santana, and the first two rounds in the quarter final of the Embassy world professional darts championship. (Contest)
- 12.10-12.15pm *Weather*
- BBC 2**
- 6.00 *TV* starts with *News* and *Good Morning Britain*, presented by Richard Keys and, from 7.00, by Michael Morris and Linda Mackay. Includes news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. After Nine. Introduced by Kathy Taylor
- 8.25 *Lucky Ladies*. Word games with Laurie Bennett
- 8.35 *Thames News* and weather
- 10.00 *The Time ... The Place ...* Mike Scott and a studio audience discuss classic British films
- 10.40 *This Morning*. Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley are joined by agony aunt Denise Robertson. Brian Thomas reports from Hollywood. Plus items on caring organisations and microwave cookery
- 10.55 *News Headlines* 11.55 *Regional News*
- 12.10 *Allo! Allo!*. *Picture Show*. *Jilly*. *Bonzo* and *Virginia* paint their own pictures
- 12.30 *Home and Away*. Martin sets out to capture Roo's heart. Carly confesses her alcoholism but begs Colin to let people know she is not a drug addict
- 1.00 *News* at one followed by *national weather*
- 1.30 *Thames News* and weather, followed by *Crimetime* 1.35 *Neighbours*. Mrs Mangel shocks her son when she blames him for ruining her life. At the summer home, Sharon decides to teach Mrs Mangel a lesson. (Contest)
- 3.25 *Thames News* and weather
- 3.35 *Operation Street*. A chance to see Monday's episode
- 4.00 *Children's ITV*, presented by Jeanne Downes, starts with *Worwer*. *Mad Science*. *Worwer*, a big shaggy dog with special powers, helps his master test his inventions 4.10 *Cartoon Club*, presented by Rob Harris 4.20 *Mr Mangel*. *Fangs for the Memory*. Mr Mangel, the failed magician working as a schoolteacher in Britain, tries everything he can to get rid of a vegetarian vampire. Stars Stanley Baxter
- 5.10 *Blockbusters*. Quiz, hosted by Bob Honeys, for the 16- to 18-year-olds
- 5.40 *News* followed by *national weather* (Oracle)
- 6.00 *Home and Away*. A chance to see the episode shown earlier today
- 6.35 *Thames News* and weather
- 7.00 *This is Your Life*. Michael Aspel springs a surprise on another celebrity
- 7.30 *Operation Street*. As soldiers take charge of Deirdre's separation from Ken, and emotions become entangled with money, Mike Baldwin springs off his Deirdre has a shoulder to cry on. Meanwhile, back at the River's Return, Alan and Beth throw a birthday party for Sandra, and wonder how she will react to her new stepmother (Oracle)
- 8.00 *Inspector Morse*. *Sins of the Fathers*. The Reardon brewing family is facing a takeover by a multinational when managing director Trevor Reardon is murdered. It's a case tailor-made for real-life quaffer Inspector Morse (John Thaw). (Oracle)
- 10.00 *News* at Ten followed by *national weather* (Oracle)
- 10.30 *Thames News* and weather
- 10.35 *Neighbours*. *Mercantile Credit*. Classic. Tony Francis introduces coverage of the quarter final action from Blackpool
- 12.30pm *The Oldest Rookie*. *Marital Affairs*. Lieutenant Ziegler's daughter asks him and Tony for help when her father is charged with sex offences and corruption
- 1.30 *Stories in the Night*. *Midnighters*. First in a new series, presented by Nick Stuart, which looks at the paranormal. Tonight's programme investigates medium and spirit communication with the spirit world
- 2.00 *News Headlines* followed by *Videovision*. *The Star System*. A new series which looks at the world of design and fashion
- 2.30 *America's Top 10*, with Casey Kasam
- 3.00 *Friday the 13th*. *The Inheritance*. Two cousins inherit an antique shop and find out how it is changed by John D. LaMay
- 4.00 *News Headlines* followed by *Sport*. *Sportscast*. Motor sport from Britain's Kirkland Laing and America's Luis Santana, and the first two rounds in the quarter final of the Embassy world professional darts championship. (Contest)
- 4.30 *Fifty Years On*. A look at what was making the news headlines in 1940
- 5.00 *ITN Morning News*. Ends at 6.00
- ITV LONDON**
- 6.00 *TV* starts with *News* and *Good Morning Britain*, presented by Richard Keys and, from 7.00, by Michael Morris and Linda Mackay. Includes news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. After Nine. Introduced by Kathy Taylor
- 8.25 *Lucky Ladies*. Word games with Laurie Bennett
- 8.35 *Thames News* and weather
- 10.00 *The Time ... The Place ...* Mike Scott and a studio audience discuss classic British films
- 10.40 *This Morning*. Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley are joined by agony aunt Denise Robertson. Brian Thomas reports from Hollywood. Plus items on caring organisations and microwave cookery
- 10.55 *News Headlines* 11.55 *Regional News*
- 12.10 *Allo! Allo!*. *Picture Show*. *Jilly*. *Bonzo* and *Virginia* paint their own pictures
- 12.30 *Home and Away*. Martin sets out to capture Roo's heart. Carly confesses her alcoholism but begs Colin to let people know she is not a drug addict
- 1.00 *News* at one followed by *national weather*
- 1.30 *Thames News* and weather, followed by *Crimetime* 1.35 *Neighbours*. Mrs Mangel shocks her son when she blames him for ruining her life. At the summer home, Sharon decides to teach Mrs Mangel a lesson. (Contest)
- 3.25 *Thames News* and weather
- 3.35 *Operation Street*. A chance to see Monday's episode
- 4.00 *Children's ITV*, presented by Jeanne Downes, starts with *Worwer*. *Mad Science*. *Worwer*, a big shaggy dog with special powers, helps his master test his inventions 4.10 *Cartoon Club*, presented by Rob Harris 4.20 *Mr Mangel*. *Fangs for the Memory*. Mr Mangel, the failed magician working as a schoolteacher in Britain, tries everything he can to get rid of a vegetarian vampire. Stars Stanley Baxter
- 5.10 *Blockbusters*. Quiz, hosted by Bob Honeys, for the 16- to 18-year-olds
- 5.40 *News* followed by *national weather* (Oracle)
- 6.00 *Home and Away*. A chance to see the episode shown earlier today
- 6.35 *Thames News* and weather
- 7.00 *This is Your Life*. Michael Aspel springs a surprise on another celebrity
- 7.30 *Operation Street*. As soldiers take charge of Deirdre's separation from Ken, and emotions become entangled with money, Mike Baldwin springs off his Deirdre has a shoulder to cry on. Meanwhile, back at the River's Return, Alan and Beth throw a birthday party for Sandra, and wonder how she will react to her new stepmother (Oracle)
- 8.00 *Inspector Morse*. *Sins of the Fathers*. The Reardon brewing family is facing a takeover by a multinational when managing director Trevor Reardon is murdered. It's a case tailor-made for real-life quaffer Inspector Morse (John Thaw). (Oracle)
- 10.00 *News* at Ten followed by *national weather* (Oracle)
- 10.30 *Thames News* and weather
- 10.35 *Neighbours*. *Mercantile Credit*. Classic. Tony Francis introduces coverage of the quarter final action from Blackpool
- 12.30pm *The Oldest Rookie*. *Marital Affairs*. Lieutenant Ziegler's daughter asks him and Tony for help when her father is charged with sex offences and corruption
- 1.30 *Stories in the Night*. *Midnighters*. First in a new series, presented by Nick Stuart, which looks at the paranormal. Tonight's programme investigates medium and spirit communication with the spirit world
- 2.00 *News Headlines* followed by *Videovision*. *The Star System*. A new series which looks at the world of design and fashion
- 2.30 *America's Top 10*, with Casey Kasam
- 3.00 *Friday the 13th*. *The Inheritance*. Two cousins inherit an antique shop and find out how it is changed by John D. LaMay
- 4.00 *News Headlines* followed by *Sport*. *Sportscast*. Motor sport from Britain's Kirkland Laing and America's Luis Santana, and the first two rounds in the quarter final of the Embassy world professional darts championship. (Contest)
- 4.30 *Fifty Years On*. A look at what was making the news headlines in 1940
- 5.00 *ITN Morning News*. Ends at 6.00
- BBC 2**
- 6.00 *TV* starts with *News* and *Good Morning Britain*, presented by Richard Keys and, from 7.00, by Michael Morris and Linda Mackay. Includes news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. After Nine. Introduced by Kathy Taylor
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- 4.30 *Fifty Years On*. A look at what was making the news headlines in 1940
- 5.00 *ITN Morning News*. Ends at 6.00
- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.00 *The Channel Four Daily*
- 9.25 *The Art of Landscape*. Visual images of the natural world and different kinds of music
- 12.00 *The Parliament Programme*, with Sue Cameron and Nicholas Woolley
- 12.30 *Business Daily*, with Susannah Simons 1.00 *Sesame Street*
- 2.00 *The Carers*. *A Home for Clara*. The first programme in this Open College series tells the story of how 51-year-old Clara Reed adjusted to living in an old people's home (r)
- 2.30 *Gnostics*. *The Goodmen's Heresy*. The investigation of the alternative lost version of Christianity continues with a look at the Cathars, gnostic heretics who flourished in 12th-century France until the Inquisition and the Albigensian Crusade (r)
- 3.30 *Kingsley's*. *My Country*. Australian cartoon
- 3.40 *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. Men who pride themselves on tramping on others to get to the top
- 4.30 *Countdown*. *Game show*
- 5.30 *News and weather* followed by *Countryfile*. A report on a new method of making artificial peat and compost (r)
- 5.55 *Darts*. *Embassy world professional darts championship highlights* 3.00 and 3.50 *News* and weather
- 6.00 *Stamp of Greatness*. *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: The Man Who Was Sherlock Holmes*. First of a series of profiles about Scottish personalities who have appeared on foreign stamps (r)
- 6.30 *A Different World*. *The Thing about Women*. *Jealousy* puts off a date with Walter to see her former husband, and Walter becomes jealous (Oracle)
- 7.00 *Channel 4 News*. (Oracle)
- 7.30 *Countdown*. *Game show*
- 8.00 *Brookside*. *Sinbad* tries to warn Caroline off James (Oracle)
- 8.15 *Dispatches*. *Topical issues*
- 9.15 *Film: Starline* (1978), starring George Jackson, Mona Washbourne and Trevor Howard. Vivid account of the claustrophobic world of post-war Steve Smith. Directed by Robert Enders
- 11.10 *Signalling*. *Only Joking*. A look at the American travel towards "hot to shock" humour, described by the *New York Times* as "the comedy of hate"
- 12.10pm *Highway to Paradise*. The last in a new series includes music from 5 Guys Named Moe, country star Randy Travis, and the first television appearance of the cult Scottish band Blue Nile. The programme also features comedy from Bruce Morton and filmed portraits of the five, and the biggest hen party in Glasgow
- 1.10 *Johnny Staccato*. *Double Feature*. *The List of Deaths* (by). In the first story, a doublet of Staccato is involved in a murder. In the second, a hunted criminal returns from Europe and contacts Staccato. Ends at 2.10
- SATELLITE**
- SKY ONE**
- 5.00am *Sky News* 5.30 *European Business Channel* 6.00 *The DJ Kat Show* 6.30 *Planet Four* 10.00 *The Sullivan* 10.30 *Sky By Day* 11.30 *A Problem Shared* 12.00 *Another World* 12.30 *Capital Hospital* 1.00 *At The World* 2.30 *Living* 3.15 *The Young Doctors* 3.45 *Captain Caveman* 4.00 *Plastic Man* 4.30 *The New Leave It To Beaver Show* 5.00 *Sky Star* 5.30 *The New Price Is Right* 6.30 *Sale of the Century* 7.00 *Hey Dad* 7.30 *Mr Belvedere* 8.00 *Downbeat* 8.30 *Falcon Crest* 10.00 *Jamieson Tonight* 11.00 *Sky World News Tonight* 11.30 *Sara*
- SKY NEWS**
- News on the hour.
- 5.00am *World Business Report* 5.30 *European Business Channel* 6.00 *World Business Report* 6.30 *Frank Bough* 10.30 *BMTV Good Health* 11.30 *World Business Report* 1.30pm *NBC Today* 2.30 *Parliament Live* 3.15 *Question Time* 3.30 *Parliament Live* 4.30 *NBC Today* 5.30 *Live at Five* 6.30 *Beyond 2000* 7.30 *The Reporters* 8.30 *Newsline* 9.30 *The Reporters* 11.30 *NBC Nightly News* 12.30am *Frank Bough* 1.30 *Newsline* 2.30 *The Reporters* 3.30 *Frank Bough* 4.30 *Newsline*
- SKY MOVIES**
- From 6.00am *The Detective* 6.30 *2.00pm All the Kids Do It* (1985). Morality tale about drinking and driving
- 3.00 *Daisy: Episode 7 of the Australian drama*
- 4.00 *Julius Verne's Strange Island*. The exploits of a group of youngsters stranded on a desert island
- 6.00 *Day One* 6.30 *Part One: Story of the race to develop the atom bomb*
- 7.40 *Entertainment Tonight* 8.00 *Betar Off Dead* (1985). The romantic adventures of a failed suicide
- 10.00 *Harvest of Hate*. A lawyer and a geologist are held prisoner by Arab terrorists
- 11.30 *Angel Heart* (1987). Supernatural detective thriller, starring Mickey Rourke as a down-at-heel private eye taking a case for Louis Cypher (Robert De Niro)
- 1.00 *Angel Heart* (1987). Story of a schoolboy's life on Hollywood Boulevard
- 4.00 *The Creek* (1984). Comedy, following the progress of a college ref race. Ends at 5.30am
- EUROSPORT**
- 5.00am *World Business Report* 5.30 *European Business Channel* 6.00 *DJ Kat Show* 6.30 *Menu* 6.00 *Eurosport* - What A Year! 10.00 *Lissabon Football* 11.00 *Amateur Football* 11.30 *Women's World Cup* 12.00 *Table Tennis* 12.30 *Grand Prix Finals* 1.00pm *WWF* Superstars of Wrestling 2.00 *Best of the Year - Tennis* 3.00 *McEnroe* 3.30 *Football* 4.00 *Special* 4.30 *World Cup* 5.00 *World Cup* 5.30 *World Cup* 6.00 *World Cup* 6.30 *World Cup* 7.00 *World Cup* 7.30 *World Cup* 8.00 *World Cup* 8.30 *World Cup* 9.00 *World Cup* 9.30 *World Cup* 10.00 *World Cup* 10.30 *World Cup* 11.00 *World Cup* 11.30 *World Cup* 12.00 *World Cup* 12.30 *World Cup* 1.00pm *World Cup* 1.30pm *World Cup* 2.00pm *World Cup* 2.30pm *World Cup* 3.00pm *World Cup* 3.30pm *World Cup* 4.00pm *World Cup* 4.30pm *World Cup* 5.00pm *World Cup* 5.30pm *World Cup* 6.00pm *World Cup* 6.30pm *World Cup* 7.00pm *World Cup* 7.30pm *World Cup* 8.00pm *World Cup* 8.30pm *World Cup* 9.00pm *World Cup* 9.30pm *World Cup* 10.00pm *World Cup* 10.30pm *World Cup* 11.00pm *World Cup* 11.30pm *World Cup* 12.00pm *World Cup* 12.30pm *World Cup* 1.00pm *World Cup* 1.30pm *World Cup* 2.00pm *World Cup* 2.30pm *World Cup* 3.00pm *World Cup* 3.30pm *World Cup* 4.00pm *World Cup* 4.30pm *World Cup* 5.00pm *World Cup* 5.30pm *World Cup* 6.00pm *World Cup* 6.30pm *World Cup* 7.00pm *World Cup* 7.30pm *World Cup* 8.00pm *World Cup* 8.30pm *World Cup* 9.00pm *World Cup* 9.30pm *World Cup* 10.00pm *World Cup* 10.30pm *World Cup* 11.00pm *World Cup* 11.30pm *World Cup* 12.00pm *World Cup* 12.30pm *World Cup* 1.00pm *World Cup* 1.30pm *World Cup* 2.00pm *World Cup* 2.30pm *World Cup* 3.00pm *World Cup* 3.30pm *World Cup* 4.00pm *World Cup* 4.30pm *World Cup* 5.00pm *World Cup* 5.30pm *World Cup* 6.00pm *World Cup* 6.30pm *World Cup* 7.00pm *World Cup* 7.30pm *World Cup* 8.00pm *World Cup* 8.30pm *World Cup* 9.00pm *World Cup* 9.30pm *World Cup* 10.00pm *World Cup* 10.30pm *World Cup* 11.00pm *World Cup* 11.30pm *World Cup* 12.00pm *World Cup* 12.30pm *World Cup* 1.00pm *World Cup* 1.30pm *World Cup* 2.00pm *World Cup* 2.30pm *World Cup* 3.00pm *World Cup* 3.30pm *World Cup* 4.00pm *World Cup* 4.30pm *World Cup* 5.00pm *World Cup* 5.30pm *World Cup* 6.00pm *World Cup* 6.30pm *World Cup* 7.00pm *World Cup* 7.30pm *World Cup* 8.00pm *World Cup* 8.30pm *World Cup* 9.00pm *World Cup* 9.30pm *World Cup* 10.00pm *World Cup* 10.30pm *World Cup* 11.00pm *World Cup* 11.30pm *World Cup* 12.00pm *World Cup* 12.30pm *World Cup* 1.00pm *World Cup* 1.30pm *World Cup* 2.00pm *World Cup* 2.30pm *World Cup* 3.00pm *World Cup* 3.30pm *World Cup* 4.00pm *World Cup* 4.30pm *World Cup* 5.00pm *World Cup* 5.30pm *World Cup* 6.00pm *World Cup* 6.30pm *World Cup* 7.00pm *World Cup* 7.30pm *World Cup* 8.00pm *World Cup* 8.30pm *World Cup* 9.00pm *World Cup* 9.30pm *World Cup* 10.00pm *World Cup* 10.30pm *World Cup* 11.00pm *World Cup* 11.30pm *World Cup* 12.00pm *World Cup* 12.30pm *World Cup* 1.00pm *World Cup* 1.30pm *World Cup* 2.00pm *World Cup* 2.30pm *World Cup* 3.00pm *World Cup* 3.30pm *World Cup* 4.00pm *World Cup* 4.30pm *World Cup* 5.00pm *World Cup* 5.30pm *World Cup* 6.00pm *World Cup* 6.30pm *World Cup* 7.00pm *World Cup* 7.30pm *World Cup* 8.00pm *World Cup* 8.30pm *World Cup* 9.00pm *World Cup* 9.30pm *World Cup* 10.00pm *World Cup* 10.30pm *World Cup* 11.00pm *World Cup* 11.30pm *World Cup* 12.00pm *World Cup* 12.30pm *World Cup* 1.00pm *World Cup* 1.30pm *World Cup* 2.00pm *World Cup* 2.30pm *World Cup* 3.00pm *World Cup* 3.30pm *World Cup* 4.00pm *World Cup* 4.30pm *World Cup* 5.00pm *World Cup* 5.30pm *World Cup* 6.00pm *World Cup* 6.30pm *World Cup* 7.00pm *World Cup* 7.30pm *World Cup* 8.00pm *World Cup* 8.30pm *World Cup* 9.00pm *World Cup* 9.30pm *World Cup* 10.00pm *World Cup* 10.30pm *World Cup* 11.00pm *World Cup* 11.30pm *World Cup* 12.00pm *World Cup* 12.30pm *World Cup* 1.00pm *World Cup* 1.30pm *World Cup* 2.00pm *World Cup* 2.30pm *World Cup* 3.00pm *World Cup* 3.30pm *World Cup* 4.00pm *World Cup* 4.30pm *World Cup* 5.00pm *World Cup* 5.30pm *World Cup* 6.00pm *World Cup* 6.30pm *World Cup* 7.00pm *World Cup* 7.30pm *World Cup* 8.00pm *World Cup* 8.30pm *World Cup* 9.00pm *World Cup* 9.30pm *World Cup* 10.00pm *World Cup* 10.30pm *World Cup* 11.00pm *World Cup* 11.30pm *World Cup* 12.00pm *World Cup* 12.30pm *World Cup* 1.00pm *World Cup* 1.30pm *World Cup* 2.00pm *World Cup* 2.30pm *World Cup* 3.00pm *World Cup* 3.30pm *World Cup* 4.00pm *World Cup* 4.30pm *World Cup* 5.00pm *World Cup* 5.30pm *World Cup* 6.00pm *World Cup* 6.30pm *World Cup* 7.00pm *World Cup* 7.30pm *World Cup* 8.00pm *World Cup* 8.30pm *World Cup* 9.00pm *World Cup* 9.30pm *World Cup* 10.00pm *World Cup* 10.30pm *World Cup* 11.00pm *World Cup* 11.30pm *World Cup* 12.00pm *World Cup* 12.30pm *World Cup* 1.00pm *World Cup* 1.30pm *World Cup* 2.00pm *World Cup* 2.30pm *World Cup* 3.00pm *World Cup* 3.30pm *World Cup* 4.00pm *World Cup* 4.3

Seoul (Reuter) — South Korean police are cracking down on bars and discos open after midnight, strictly enforcing a new law designed to curb consumer spending.

In a postal ballot, the brewery's managers have rejected pay increases

put ourselves in the front line. District managers won't approve and they are

representative before keys can be handed over to a relief manager will prevent

for rises similar to those turned down by their colleagues in the east.

His boss, Mr King, backed **Matthew Parris**

See For Yourself. At a rough cut stage, the BBC started discussions with Chrysalis who were happy to accept changes we suggested then and later."

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TEMPUS

Really Useful on track for buyout

By Martin Waller

Plans for a management buyout at the Really Useful Group, the stock market vehicle of Mr Andrew Lloyd Webber, the composer, where Mr Robert Maxwell has a 14.5 per cent holding, could be published by the end of this month.

The directors announced their intention to take the company private in November but the silence since has prompted suggestions that their plans might have met a hitch.

However, Mr Robert Kretowicz, a director of Salomon Brothers International, the merchant bank advising the management, said the buyout was "progressing slowly but surely." Neither he nor the company would comment on the delay. But it is understood a complicating factor was the Maxwell holding. The publisher is thought to have wanted to continue as an active partner of Mr Lloyd Webber once the company had gone private again but to have been opposed by the board.

Another complication was the departure of Mr Peter Jay, Mr Maxwell's former lieutenant who had been leading the negotiations, to the BBC.

Mr Kretowicz said: "I remain, as of this afternoon, optimistic. There's no particular sticking point."

TSB '£60m' for defaults

TSB is set to announce a £60 million provision against defaults from local authorities in preliminary figures tomorrow. TSB has one of the largest exposures to Hammersmith & Fulham Council, which is currently not honouring many swap transactions.

Pre-tax profits for the year to end-October are put at £180 million.

Countryside code pays off

Countryside Properties' shares were up and running yesterday, despite the depression overhauling the property development and housebuilding market.

But then Countryside has a reputation of growth to live up to, and yesterday aptly demonstrated that, having notched up its ninth successive year of profits growth, the management is now going for its tenth.

Pre-tax profits of £20.3 million for the year ended September 30, against £19.25 million, may well be the least impressive percentage improvement Countryside has achieved in a number of years. And with a final dividend raised from 2.15p to 2.7p a share, making 4p (3.15p) for the year, Countryside remains a runner for an entry in the Guinness Book of Records with a 9.22 times cover.

The asset backing also remains solid. The nimble-footed scaling down of residential development to concentrate heavily on commercial property speaks volumes for Countryside's ability to come through another difficult year.

Trading profits within the residential division fell by 34 per cent to £13.3 million, but were offset by a jump from £2.4 million to £11.1 million in trading profits from the commercial side.

The number of houses built and handed over last year was 605, rather than the 750 forecast, of which 220 were owner occupied. This year, 600 house units are planned, with 800 a target number over the next four years.

Meanwhile, land bank buying opportunities abound and Countryside holds land with planning permission for 2,800 homes. There are also options on various sites for a further 6,500 homes, and a number of commercial developments are in hand.

Profits growth could again be slow this year, possibly



Supplying little reason for market fizz: Anglian's Semple and Welsh Water's Elford Jones

Anglian Water/Welsh Water

Since flotation, the £1 partly paid water shares have risen an average 60 per cent, cutting the prospective dividend yield from a weighted average 8.55 per cent to 6.8 per cent.

About 16 points of the average 25 per cent premium on the fully paid shares is accounted for by the rise in the share index since the sale terms were set. Ultra-safe pricing explains the rest.

Welsh Water, which has a unique permanent golden share, has kept up with the pack, rising a further 3p to 161p on yesterday's interim results. This suggests that the flurry of French stake buying and heightened eventual bid



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eighties. Parkfield had not been floated at the start of the decade and so was omitted from most league tables.

If the clock had started in 1985, the year he took the helm, he reckons Parkfield would have been top of the list. He has turned the then-struggling USM foundry group worth less than £300,000 into a company with a market capitalization approaching £300 million. This has mostly been due to an astonishing increase in Parkfield's share price, from the equivalent of 2p when he took over to 510p at present.

Mr Felber is also proud that this growth was not achieved by progressing to ever larger acquisitions, though there have been plenty of lesser ones. Parkfield aims to be a market leader in fields where most of its competitors are smaller.

After pulling out of distribution of electrical goods and plumbers' fittings, Parkfield's sales by the end of this year will split roughly evenly between engineering and entertainment. The former comprises the manufacture of aluminium and steel vehicle wheels, vehicle chassis and heavy castings. The latter takes in the distribution of pre-recorded videos and the assembly and installation of satellite dishes for Sky television among others.

The proof of such a financially driven pudding is in earnings growth. Having risen from 2p in 1984-85 to 34p last year, the 79 per cent rise to 17.7p in the six months to October, on doubled profits of £13.9 million before tax, was not exceptional by Parkfield's standards.

Analysts are expecting £33.5 million before tax in the full year and earnings of 43½p, implying a prospective p/e ratio of 12. That is not excessive given the record, but the perennial concern with conglomerates is whether the future will resemble the past.

Parkfield

Mr Roger Felber, Parkfield's executive chairman, is somewhat miffed at the new year press coverage of the best performing companies of the

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Extra 150m barrels in Ninian oilfield

Oryx Energy reports that its largest oilfield, the Chevron-operated Ninian field 100 miles from Aberdeen, is now thought to contain up to 150 million more barrels of recoverable oil than estimated, and recoverable reserves 9 per cent more than estimated.

Ninian has produced 850 million barrels of oil from 71 wells and it is now thought eventual production could be more than 1.2 billion barrels. Chevron operates the field but Oryx is the biggest shareholder with 21.4 per cent. Enterprise Oil has 18.5 per cent, Lomo 17.3 per cent, Chevron 17.1 per cent, Ranger Oil 11.5 per cent, Murphy Oil 7.1 per cent and Ocean Oil 7.1 per cent.

Steetley buys BP to sell oil licence stakes

Steetley, the building materials group, has bought two aggregates and ready-mixed concrete businesses near Madrid. The total price is believed to be about £10 million. The two, Arifesa at Gualadajara and Aridos y Hormigonos Castilla at Salamanca, boost both aggregates and concrete production of Steetley's Spanish operations by about 10 per cent.

Drax job lifts Howden

Howden Group, the engineer, boosted by a £20 million Drax power station order, enjoyed a 32 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £7.07 million in its half year to October.

Mr Johnny Johnson, chairman, said that the order was by Howden Sirocco for booster fans and heaters for the fine gas desulfurization programme at Drax Power Station, Yorkshire, was a welcome sign of an upturn in the UK power generation equipment business. Talking in tunnel boring and defence interests, group turnover improved by more than £30 million to £126 million. The interim dividend rises 12 per cent to 1.59p. Earnings per share grew by a fifth to 4.3p.

Hawtin slips to £1.15m

Hawtin, the Cardiff distribution and property company, saw pre-tax profits slip from £1.3 million to £1.15 million in the year to end-September, on turnover reduced from £24.1 million to £22.8 million. Earnings per share fell from 1.51p to 1.15p. However, an improved final dividend of 0.75p compares with 0.5p last time, payable April 6. The shares lost 1p to 25½p.

Barlo slumps into the red

Barlo, the Irish heating group, has been hit by the mild weather and reports a pre-tax loss of £1.2 million (£1.15 million) for the six months to September against a £170,000 profit. No interim dividend will be paid (1.25p) and Mr Aidan Barlow, the chairman, expects losses to reach £1.2 million by the end of the current year. The loss per share was 3.62p (1.51p epe).

Kunick aiming to expand after profits climb 67%

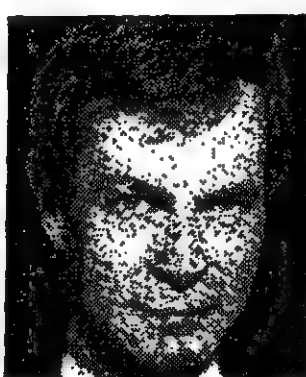
By Gillian Bowditch

Kunick, the leisure and healthcare group, expects to add £1 million to pre-tax profits this year as the result of the gambling stake on fruit machines doubling to 20p this month.

The company, which has 42,000 juke boxes and fruit machines, saw pre-tax profits jump 67 per cent to £8.5 million for the year to September on turnover up 41 per cent to £37.6 million. Earnings per share rose 41 per cent to 4.9p, and the dividend for the year is up 29 per cent to 1.8p.

Kunick shares on the USM rose 2p to 65p, close to their high for the last 12 months.

All divisions increased profits with care services, the group's nursing homes, hospitals and home care division, increasing profits by 100 per cent to £1.96 million. The company has 592 nursing home beds and expects to



Smith: outgrowing USM

have 722 by the end of this year.

Mr Russell Smith, Kunick's chairman, says that the group's compact disc jukebox already has a 40 per cent market share. He expects the new 20p stake fruit machines to add more than £2 million to profits in a full year. This year's extra contribution will

be about £1 million after the cost of converting machines.

Visitor attractions, principally the London Dungeon and the York Dungeon, increased profits by 20 per cent to £1.21 million despite the hot summer and the train strike, both of which had an adverse effect on business. A record 530,000 people visited the London Dungeon last year, and the group is planning to open a Paris Dungeon, detailing the gorier aspects of French history, this year. A Paris Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame will open in 1991.

The group intends to apply for a full listing this year, but it will not issue more shares, Mr Smith said that institutional shareholders had suggested that the group had outgrown the USM. It is offering its 7 per cent preference shareholders the same terms as its 8½ per cent preference shareholders.

AMI stake talks 'at early stage'

By Michael Tate

Negotiations over the sale of the controlling 65 per cent stake in AMI Healthcare, Britain's largest private health group, are "still in the early stages," Mr Richard Gilliland, chairman, told shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting.

"The disposal process has begun and a number of parties have expressed interest in acquiring the shareholding," he confirmed, but he could give no indication as to when the sale might take place.

American International put its stake in the quoted £250-million British offshoot on the market last summer. A number of approaches had been reported from Britain, the Continent and North America by last month's deadline for interested parties.

The sale will probably lead to a full bid for AMI under City takeover rules.

Australians take 5% of Whitegate

By Angela Mackay

Fairgill Investments, a company associated with the Fairfax family of Australia, has taken a 5.3 per cent holding in Mr Nick Oppenheim's Third Market vehicle, Whitegate Leisure, the fast-growing ten-pin bowling, discotheques and nursing homes group.

Whitegate's shares were trading at 40½p yesterday compared with 38½p a week earlier. It is capitalized at £57.8 million.

It is believed that Fairgill, a private company set up to invest outside Australia by Mr James Fairfax, the art collector and former chairman of the Fairfax media group, and Mr Edward Gilly, his half-brother, paid about £2.7 million for the bulk of the shares,

which were issued late last year to buy two more discotheques.

Mr Gilly, speaking from Australia, said that he had been at business school with Mr Oppenheim and that he was looking at the investment as "long-term with above-average growth."

He said that Fairgill had also recently invested in a Korean venture-capital company.

Northern-based Whitegate was described as "a recession-proof business with good margins" by Grouzentrone Gilbert Eliot, the broker.

Whitegate, which was listed 14 months ago, is expected to sell its nursing homes business soon.

Bucknall Austin rises to £706,000

By San Parkhouse

Bucknall Austin, a quantity surveyor, has bought Thorne Wheatley Associates, a Paris surveyor, for up to £750,000 to lessen the effects of an expected 5 per cent downturn in UK construction activity this year.

Bucknall Austin revealed pre-tax profits up 37 per cent to £706,000 for its half year to October 1989, on turnover 61 per cent higher at £9.6 million.

But Mr David Bucknall, chairman, said: "The anticipated slowdown in the construction market is now upon us. The Chancellor's Autumn Statement and other economic indicators lead us to believe that UK construction turnover will reduce by some 5 per cent this year." He added

that recent history shows that downturns in the UK have been matched by corresponding upturns in Europe, and particularly France. For this reason Thorne Wheatley, a leading quantity surveyor in France, was attractive.

A minimum consideration of £500,000 has been agreed, and this will rise to £750,000 depending on Thorne's performance in its current year to June.

Bucknall Austin made profits of £578,000 from quantity surveying, and £128,000 from its project management interests at its interim stage.

There is an interim dividend of 1.3p, up from 1p, on 22 per cent increased earnings per share of 6.2p.

Apricot to restructure after bid

By Our City Staff

Apricot Computers, the Birmingham personal computer and services company, announced a new group structure after the completion of its agreed £12.7 million bid for ITL Information Technology.

The enlarged group will focus on the software and services and hardware divisions, in an attempt to lessen Apricot's dependence on hardware sales.

Apricot has merged its software and services interests with those of ITL under a separate division called ACT, consisting of five distinct companies, each with its own sector.

WELSH WATER PLC

Results for the half year to 30th September 1989

Chairman's Statement

I am pleased to report a pre-tax profit on ordinary activities of £18.4 million on a turnover of £128.9 million for the six months ended 30th September 1989. Subject to no unforeseen circumstances arising we are well on target to achieve the full year profit forecast of £35.5 million for the year to 31st March 1990, before taxation and extraordinary items, and to recommend a single dividend, payable in October 1990, of 11.17p per Ordinary Share. No interim dividend is proposed for the six months to 30th September 1989.

This period has seen major changes in the water industry. In July 1989 the Water Act 1989 received Royal Assent, and on 1st September 1989 the functions of the Welsh Water Authority relating to water supply and sewerage services were transferred to Dŵr Cymru Cytgngedig, a wholly owned subsidiary of Welsh Water PLC.

On 22nd November 1989 shares in Welsh Water PLC were offered for sale by the Secretary of State for Wales and I would extend a very warm welcome to those who have become shareholders in the Company.

I believe that we are well prepared for the opportunities offered by the private sector and that Welsh Water PLC will succeed through strong and effective management of the water supply and sewerage services business allied to a strategy of related diversification through organic growth, acquisition and joint venture.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to Welsh Water's employees. Their unfailing commitment and enthusiasm in the period leading up to flotation enables us all to look forward to the future with confidence.

John Elford Jones, CBE, DL
Chairman

UNAUDITED GROUP RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 1989

	Six Months Ended 30th September 1989 Notes	£m
TURNOVER	2	128.9
OPERATING PROFIT		43.5
Other Income		0.3
Profit Before Interest		43.8
Net Interest Payable		(25.4)
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE AND AFTER TAXATION	5	18.4
Extraordinary Items	4	(3.4)
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS		15.0

2. Turnover for the six months ended 30th September 1989 includes the financial effects of the transitional arrangements with the National Rivers Authority for the five months to 31st August 1989.

PRO FORMA EARNINGS

Pro forma profit on ordinary activities after taxation

Pro forma earnings per Ordinary Share

Pro forma earnings per Ordinary Share have been calculated by dividing pro forma profit on ordinary activities after taxation by the 144.1 million Ordinary Shares in issue since 20th November 1989. Pro forma profit on ordinary activities after taxation has been calculated by making an adjustment to interest of £42.0 million on a basis that the new capital structure had been in place since 1st April 1989 and by excluding the pro forma taxation charge of £5.3 million (note 5).

Actual earnings per Ordinary Share has not been presented as the number of shares in issue during the six months ended 30th September 1989 and the actual profits for that period are not considered to be representative of the group's position following implementation of the new capital structure.

EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS

Extraordinary items comprise privatisation and restructuring costs.

5. TAXATION Prior to vesting on 1st September 1989, Welsh Water Authority was exempt from UK income, corporation and capital gains taxes on all income and chargeable gains. Until such time as a liability to mainstream corporation tax or deferred tax arises, it is expected that the only tax charge to the profit and loss account will be the write off of irrecoverable advance corporation tax.

In computing pro forma earnings, the pro forma taxation charge has been derived by applying the estimated effective rate of tax as a proportion of profits for the year ending 31st March 1990 (based on the pro forma forecast contained in the prospectus) to the interim results.

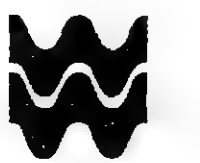
NOTES

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The Group results, which are unaudited, for the six months ended 30th September 1989 for Welsh Water PLC have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out in the prospectus dated 22nd November 1989 containing Listing Particulars of Welsh Water PLC and are consistent with the accounting policies adopted for the year ended 31st March 1989.

Results for the six months ended 30th September 1989 have not been presented. The Directors believe that comparison with this prior period would not be meaningful in view of changes during the current year in capital structure and regulation and other costs associated with the Company's new status as a listed plc.

The financial information contained in this interim statement does not amount to full accounts within the meaning of Section 254 of the Companies Act 1985.



WELSH WATER PLC

Pay buoyancy prompts rise in living standards

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

A continued rise in living standards, slightly faster accumulation of savings and a sharp deterioration in the finances of companies are revealed by figures for the third quarter of last year.

Wages and salaries continued to rise rapidly in the third quarter, growing 2.6 per cent after seasonal adjustment, according to the Central Statistical Office.

This was slightly faster than in the second quarter and shows pay packets rising at 11.2 per cent over the year. Other personal income also grew rapidly.

The buoyancy of pay was the main factor in a rise in

living standards in the third quarter of 1.6 per cent, a substantially larger increase than in either of the two previous quarters. Over the year, living standards — as measured by real personal disposable income — rose 5.6 per cent.

In spite of the continued strong rise in living standards, people tended to save more and spend less as consumer confidence waned in the face of high interest rates.

The saving ratio — personal saving as a percentage of total personal disposable income — rose from 4.1 per cent in the second quarter to 5.5 per cent in the third, its highest level

since the first half of 1987. The rate of saving in Britain has been historically low for some years and low compared with other countries.

However, the Treasury yesterday gave warning against reading too much into the modest improvement, noting that both the figures for the two previous quarters had been significantly revised since earlier estimates.

The figure has also been swollen by the switch to personal pensions which has the statistical effect of increasing personal incomes.

For companies, falling demand coupled with continuing sharp increases in costs

have led to a deteriorating financial situation. Profits of industrial and commercial companies net of stock appreciation fell 1.6 per cent in the third quarter though they were slightly higher than a year earlier. The fall occurred in spite of a 7.7 per cent recovery in North Sea profits as output revived after recent accidents.

On capital account, companies had a financial deficit of £6.46 billion — £3.6 billion in the previous quarter. After disinvestment in other companies at home and abroad the net borrowing requirement for the sector was a record £23.62 billion, nearly twice that of the previous quarter.

Britannia changing to Invesco

By Neil Bennett

Britannia Arrow, Lord Stevens' fund management group, is changing its name to Invesco MIM, the titles of its two main subsidiaries, as the start of a £3 million name change throughout the group.

Lord Stevens also revealed the group is planning an assault on the £60,000 billion (£252 billion) Japanese investment trust market, by applying for one of first trust licences offered to foreigners.

Britannia's name change comes two months after it bought the remaining 55 per cent of Invesco, its US investment subsidiary. Lord Stevens said it had been decided to underline the group's main management business. He also said the Britannia name had negative connotations.

The change will cost £300,000, most of it on advertising. But Britannia is looking at a reworking of all subsidiary titles, costing up to £3 million.

Britannia, which manages funds of £25 billion, recently opened a Tokyo office and is keen to attract more Japanese investors. It wants a Japanese investment trust licence, to allow it to issue yen-denominated trusts. The group is thought to be in competition with other European and American firms. Results of formal applications are expected in the autumn.



Taking the title role: Lord Stevens announces Britannia's name change to Invesco yesterday

Fine Art threatens action against EFL

By Sam Parkhouse

Fine Art Developments is threatening EFL Nederland with a legal battle in order to close the Aus\$30 million (£14.2 million) sale of Bell & Howell, its Australian business, agreed with EFL last month.

EFL agreed to buy Fine Art's 64 per cent stake in the greeting cards-to-mail order business for Aus\$30 million cash, at 54 cents a share, by January 5.

Mr Keith Chapman, chairman of Fine Art, said his company had already fulfilled the first phase of the deal by selling a 31.2 per cent holding to EFL on December 6.

But Bell & Howell shares have since slipped to 49 cents

on the Australian Stock Exchange, and EFL has demanded the right to renegotiate the deal price. The Dutch company has won an extension of the offer period, to March 6, from the New South Wales Corporate Affairs Commission. Mr Chapman said it seemed unlikely Fine Art would receive the first instalment payment at the end of the month, as agreed.

Fine Art has told EFL it wants a commitment from the company that it will fulfil the obligation to make its offer for all the Bell & Howell shares this week. Fine Art said it would pursue "appropriate legal remedies" if it did not receive the commitment.

Countryside rises in gloomy market

By Colin Campbell

Countryside Properties managed to survive the worst effects of a depressed housing and property market in the year ended September. It says that now is a suitable time for it to buy land since it has traditionally made its best purchases when the housing market is less active.

Mr Alan Cherry, chairman, reported pre-tax profits of £20.3 million, against £19.25 million, for the group's ninth successive year of profits growth, even though turnover slipped from £95.6 million to £88.8 million.

Mr Cherry concedes that the Government's anti-inflation policy has temporarily slowed Countryside's progress, but

says there remains a considerable underlying need and demand for more, and better, new homes.

"Countryside currently owns, or has an interest in, land with planning permission for 2,800 new homes," he said.

Mr Cherry added: "I believe that the housing market will move ahead again when mortgage interest rates fall, unleashing pent-up demand."

The group says it was well served by partnership schemes with building societies and housing associations.

The final dividend rises from 2.15p to 2.7p, payable April 6, making 4p (3.15p). The shares rose 10p to 219p.

Tempos, page 26

Accounts change may boost banks

By Our City Staff

The British Bankers' Association is trying to standardize banking accounting practices in time for a threatened revolution in financial accounting law at the end of this year.

The BBA has published its first draft statement of accounting practice, called *Statement of Recommended Accounting Practice (Sorp)*, which recommends how Britain's banks should treat securities investment in their balance sheets.

This may add millions to profits at Britain's clearing banks, since they will be allowed to show many of their share and gilt holdings at current prices, instead of historic values.

Two more are planned — one on bad debts, the other on off-balance sheet products, like foreign exchange positions.

The Sorps are the products of a two-and-a-half year debate on contentious issues in the banking world. The three committees producing the reports are an attempt by the BBA's 400 members to self-regulate their accounting standards.

They are supported by the Treasury, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Bank of England.

The BBA is also using the Sorps to influence the DTT's forthcoming rules on accounting, which will radically alter the appearance of banking balance sheets from 1991.

The department's legislation is the result of the EC's bank accounting directive, which aims to standardize accounting throughout the 12 members.

In the first Sorp, the BBA recommends that banks should value securities at current cost, except for long-term investments which should be taken at historic value.

This effectively ends a debate between Britain's clearers — which preferred the conservative historic approach — and merchant banks, which mainly account on a current basis.

The report could be heading for an immediate crisis, however, since the suggested standard may conflict with West German banking law and leave banks like Morgan Grenfell, now owned by Deutsche Bank, unable to reconcile between systems.

The Sorp on bad debts has also hit controversy, although a compromise is thought to be close.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Devil of a time for the Morgan Grenfell story

The John Menzies bookshop in Old Broad Street, in the heart of the City, has been doing a roaring trade in *The Pride of Lucifer* this week. The book is subtitled *The Unauthorised Biography of a Merchant Bank*, and tells a story of the rise of Morgan Grenfell, the offices of which are little more than 100 yards from the bookshop.

Morgan Grenfell, and a small group of highly motivated corporate finance executives, including the team that pulled off the acquisition of Distillers for Guinness, challenged the establishment, even the Bank of England, and for a while looked like winning. In the end, it all began to fall apart.

The bank itself is unamused by the book, publication of which has been timed to coincide with the first of the Guinness trials, due to commence next month. According to the author, Dominic Hobson, "Morgan Grenfell have sought, through their solicitors, Slaughter & May, to prevent its publication".

This can hardly be surprising, since Hobson is a former employee of Morgan Grenfell who lost his job when the bank made the decision to close down the equities operations in 1988. "I left... both happy and generously compensated," admits Hobson, who claims he felt compelled to write the controversial tome for the sake of those whose lives and careers were changed irrevocably by the chain of events at Morgan. "It is them who are owed this glimpse of the truth," says Hobson.

It will interest a wider audience, but the organization that it describes is already long gone. Most of the leading figures whose antics are chronicled by the former insider are long gone. The

equities operations, which provided Hobson with his ringside seat, are closed. The corporate finance department, scene of the brainstorming sessions that created Storehouse, the Burton takeover of Debenhams and, of course, the winning of Distillers for Guinness, is a much quieter, more conventional place under the control of Guy Dawson, a man untainted by the problems of earlier successes and excesses.

But the next chapter could be equally interesting. The implications of the £1 billion takeover of Morgan by Deutsche Bank are only just sinking in to its competitors around the City. Deutsche Bank holds the strongest card in corporate Europe. Its shareholdings are legendary and its influence unparalleled. The deal, which even managed to give investors a 50p-a-share profit on the over-hyped flotation price in 1986, plugs Morgan into Europe in a big way.

The deal was closed as the Berlin Wall was opened, and although Deutsche Bank paid a breathtaking price, it could see the potential in bringing Morgan's deal-making ability to a Europe-wide audience. The next stage is likely to be a strengthening of the United States operations so as to bring in some of the "big hitters" able to attract the major transatlantic corporate deals.

Within a year or two, the bank described in Mr Hobson's book is likely to be unrecognizable as the bank which will emerge from beneath the vast financial wingspan of Deutsche Bank. And then, maybe, Morgan may find a place for *The Pride of Lucifer* in the boardroom bookcase. For without the events of late 1980s, Morgan might still have remained just another small, quality, London bank.

Alan Bond plays for time

Sceldom in corporate history has there been a more ridiculous idea than the notion of innocent Jeff Reynolds, aged 28, from Houston sorting out the affairs of arch-dealmaker Alan Bond. Armed with little more than a winning smile, \$250 million and a 65p master company registered in Singapore, the man who appears more suited to a surfboard than a boardroom is attempting to stave off the liquidation of the Bond empire.

This all seemed quite ludicrous until Mr Reynolds senior, who lives not far away from Houston, in Dallas, let slip that his lad, who started his business dealings a decade ago when he was just 18, has links with the Sultan of Brunei. It is not clear whether Mr Reynolds senior was talking with authorization from his son, but it does beggar credibility that the Sultan, one of the richest men in the world, would single out Mr Reynolds to be the conduit for a

takeover of the Bond empire.

If it did happen that way, however, it would give a long laugh to Tiny Rowland, who has taken an extraordinary interest in the Sultan's deals since the takeover of House of Fraser, and whose detailed exposure of the extent of Bond Corporation's debts exacerbated the present crisis.

In any case, the publicity generated by Mr Reynolds does suit Mr Bond. What the troubled entrepreneur needs more than anything is time, for the longer creditors are held at bay the better the chances of Mr Bond being able to keep some element of control over the empire. Creditors have now started falling out with each other, and so long as the legal claims remain in dispute it is unlikely that the rug will finally be pulled from beneath Mr Bond's feet. Mr Reynolds is no white knight; but he is a useful diversion.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.



News International plc

US \$750,000,000

Credit Facility

Guaranteed by

The News Corporation Limited

and major subsidiaries

Procured by

Lloyds Bank Plc

Bank of America NT&SA

Midland Bank plc

Citibank, N.A.

Westpac Banking Corporation

Crédit Lyonnais

London Branch

The Bank of Nova Scotia

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Barclays Bank PLC

National Westminster Bank PLC

Standard Chartered Bank

Banco Central S.A.

London Branch

Deutsche Bank Aktiengesellschaft

London Branch

Agent Bank

Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited

December 1989

Doctor on call

Practical jokes in the City are not uncommon but only occasionally do they go badly wrong. Word reaches me, however, of one persistent and erroneous telephone caller, shortly before Christmas, who kept dialling the trading floor at Kleinwort Benson. The caller repeatedly asked if he was through to the doctor's surgery and asked to speak to a certain Dr Mortimer. Exasperated after countless denials, the KB man who kept answering the call eventually persuaded a colleague — institutional salesman Hilfy (Hilton) Seely — to pose as Dr Mortimer, in the hope of clearing the line for genuine investment clients. A subsequent call was duly made to the trading floor and Seely was summoned. Without any further introduction, the caller promptly asked this so-called Dr Mortimer what he thought about a certain medical matter. The sophisticated Seely responded by shouting a sexually explicit word into the receiver. The caller, somewhat taken aback, quickly terminated the conversation, muttering something about there being "some mistake". KB later received a terse complaint from Greater London Radio that "Dr Mortimer's" comments had gone on live to a million listeners during a phone-in programme. Seely, meanwhile, clearly enjoyed his moment of stardom. "I've never been on radio before," he told one colleague proudly.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Jeffreys' tails of woe

Clearly not content with notching up the biggest car parking bill in the history of the City — £5,000 — Daniel Jeffreys, Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers' new head of UK equity strategy and the former head of the BBC's economics and financial unit, is now, I hear, the proud possessor of one of the most expensive white tie morning suits on record. Hired from Lipman & Son, in London's Charing

Cross Road in mid-October, in time for the Chancellor's annual Mansion House speech, the suit — complete with hired waistcoat, shirt and bow tie — is, I'm told, still hanging in his closet. Estimated to be worth less than £300, the accrued hire charges now total more than £400. "If he brings it back and talks to the manager, we can probably come to an arrangement," suggests a helpful Lipman's assistant.

Squeaked in

The three newly refurbished office blocks inhabited by Eitel, the financial and racing news service, within a stone's throw of Old Street round-

about on the edge of the Square Mile, have hitherto been assumed impenetrable to anything but authorized human beings. "We've got security guards and cameras on every entrance, we have to wear security passes complete with photographs and carry electronic keys to open even internal doors," confides one inmate. Staff there were thus understandably surprised to find that some unauthorized individual had been nibbling at their sandwiches. And last week the culprit was spotted... a mouse was seen running from the second floor office of City editor Ken Clay. "There's so much paper in there, we think it's made a nest," quipped one employee.

● The power of prayer, or of advertising? Short of recruits, nuns in New York launched their own advertising campaign and they have been inundated with calls.

Carol Leonard



"I thought it was a description of their chairman's face"

Apricot to restructure after bid

Apricot, the fruit and vegetable processor, is to restructure after a bid by... (text is partially obscured and difficult to read)

all Austin £706,000

Sam Parkhouse... (text is partially obscured and difficult to read)

Barlo slumps into the red

Barlo, the Irish family group, has been hit by a... (text is partially obscured and difficult to read)

ANI stake talks at early stage

Michael Tan... (text is partially obscured and difficult to read)

BP to sell oil licence stakes

BP Exploration has agreed to sell part of its interest... (text is partially obscured and difficult to read)

SS Roundup

Oil barrels... (text is partially obscured and difficult to read)

A MAJOR FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPANY HAS CHANGED ITS NAME.




BUT YOU'LL STILL FIND SOME FAMILIAR FACES ON THE BOARD.

It's not every new name in financial services that can claim to run a global network, or to have £25 billion of funds under management. But this new name is a rather exceptional one. Because behind it lie the worldwide resources of what was formerly Britannia Arrow Holdings.

Resources that already include formidable expertise in the whole gamut of financial services, from pensions and insurance to unit trusts and fund management. And which were boosted by our acquisition in 1988 of Invesco, one of the most dynamic capital management companies in the US.

Resources that span Japan, the Far East, the USA, UK and Europe, but which we have now drawn together under a single new company name. INVESCO MIM PLC. A single name to express a single-minded ambition for the 1990's. Quite simply, to be the leader in global fund management. For a new name in financial services, it's an ambitious aim. But as you

can see, behind the name Invesco MIM lies a wealth of experience. INVESCO  MIM PLC

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Comp.	Gain or loss
1	Security Serv	Industrial S-Z	
2	Highland Dist	Beverages	
3	Compass	Leisure	
4	Wellcome (ns)	Industrial S-Z	
5	Central TV	Leisure	
6	Clear Bros	Banks/Discount	
7	STC (ns)	Electronics	
8	BAT (ns)	Tobacco	
9	Mitel	Electronics	
10	Gemdale (ns)	Industrial S-K	
11	Cheltenham (ns)	Beverages	
12	Motor Oil	Paper/Print/Adv	
13	Low & Sear	Industrial L-R	
14	Leeds Wm Co	Drugs/Stores	
15	Sale Tilly	Industrial S-Z	
16	Fleming (ns)	Industrial E-K	
17	Shale	Hotels/Catering	
18	Shawcross (ns)	Drugs/Stores	
19	Davis & Met 'A'	Industrial A-D	
20	Prozac	Electronics	
21	Portals	Industrial L-R	
22	Harford Simon	Electronics	
23	Baltic Plc	Food	
24	Concorde	Industrial A-D	
25	Bodyside	Industrial A-D	
26	Abbey National (ns)	Banks/Discount	
27	Truistone Plc (ns)	Hotels/Catering	
28	Castrol	Industrial A-D	
29	Marshall	Building/Roads	
30	Unilever (ns)	Food	
31	Ramson	Industrial L-R	
32	BWT	Industrial A-D	
33	VG Instruments	Electronics	
34	Devenish (JA)	Beverages	
35	Borthwick	Food	
36	Proudford Alexander	Industrial L-R	
37	Hepworth	Industrial S-K	
38	ML Hops	Industrial L-R	
39	Rolls-Royce (ns)	Motors/Aircraft	
40	Tarmac (ns)	Building/Roads	
41	Toddington	Textiles	
42	Newcastle Tons	Building/Roads	
43	Canning (W)	Chemicals/Plas	
44	Scot & Robertson	Industrial S-Z	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS			
Fund	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

SHORTS (Under Five Years)			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

UNDATED			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

INDEX-LINKED			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

ELECTRICALS			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Quiet trading

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin December 27. Dealings end January 12. Settlement day January 15. Settlement day January 22.

Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (ns) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 25).

No.	Company	Comp.	Gain or loss
1	Security Serv	Industrial S-Z	
2	Highland Dist	Beverages	
3	Compass	Leisure	
4	Wellcome (ns)	Industrial S-Z	
5	Central TV	Leisure	
6	Clear Bros	Banks/Discount	
7	STC (ns)	Electronics	
8	BAT (ns)	Tobacco	
9	Mitel	Electronics	
10	Gemdale (ns)	Industrial S-K	
11	Cheltenham (ns)	Beverages	
12	Motor Oil	Paper/Print/Adv	
13	Low & Sear	Industrial L-R	
14	Leeds Wm Co	Drugs/Stores	
15	Sale Tilly	Industrial S-Z	
16	Fleming (ns)	Industrial E-K	
17	Shale	Hotels/Catering	
18	Shawcross (ns)	Drugs/Stores	
19	Davis & Met 'A'	Industrial A-D	
20	Prozac	Electronics	
21	Portals	Industrial L-R	
22	Harford Simon	Electronics	
23	Baltic Plc	Food	
24	Concorde	Industrial A-D	
25	Bodyside	Industrial A-D	
26	Abbey National (ns)	Banks/Discount	
27	Truistone Plc (ns)	Hotels/Catering	
28	Castrol	Industrial A-D	
29	Marshall	Building/Roads	
30	Unilever (ns)	Food	
31	Ramson	Industrial L-R	
32	BWT	Industrial A-D	
33	VG Instruments	Electronics	
34	Devenish (JA)	Beverages	
35	Borthwick	Food	
36	Proudford Alexander	Industrial L-R	
37	Hepworth	Industrial S-K	
38	ML Hops	Industrial L-R	
39	Rolls-Royce (ns)	Motors/Aircraft	
40	Tarmac (ns)	Building/Roads	
41	Toddington	Textiles	
42	Newcastle Tons	Building/Roads	
43	Canning (W)	Chemicals/Plas	
44	Scot & Robertson	Industrial S-Z	

BREWERIES			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

BUILDING, ROADS			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

FINANCE, LAND			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

FINANCIAL TRUSTS			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

FOODS			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

DRAPERY, STORES			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

HOTELS, CATERERS			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

INDUSTRIALS A-D			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

E-K			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

L-R			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

S-K			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

MOTOR, AIRCRAFT			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

OILS, GAS			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

SHOES, LEATHER			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

TEXTILES			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

TOBACCO			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

WATER			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

OVERSEAS TRADERS			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

PROPERTY			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

SHIPPING			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

INSURANCE			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

LEISURE			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

MOTOR, AIRCRAFT			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

OILS, GAS			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

SHOES, LEATHER			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

TEXTILES			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

TOBACCO			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

WATER			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

OVERSEAS TRADERS			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

PROPERTY			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

SHIPPING			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

INSURANCE			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

LEISURE			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

MOTOR, AIRCRAFT			
Company	Price	Div	Yield
1000/10			
High Low Bid			

Portfolio

PLATINUM

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DAILY DIVIDEND
£2,000

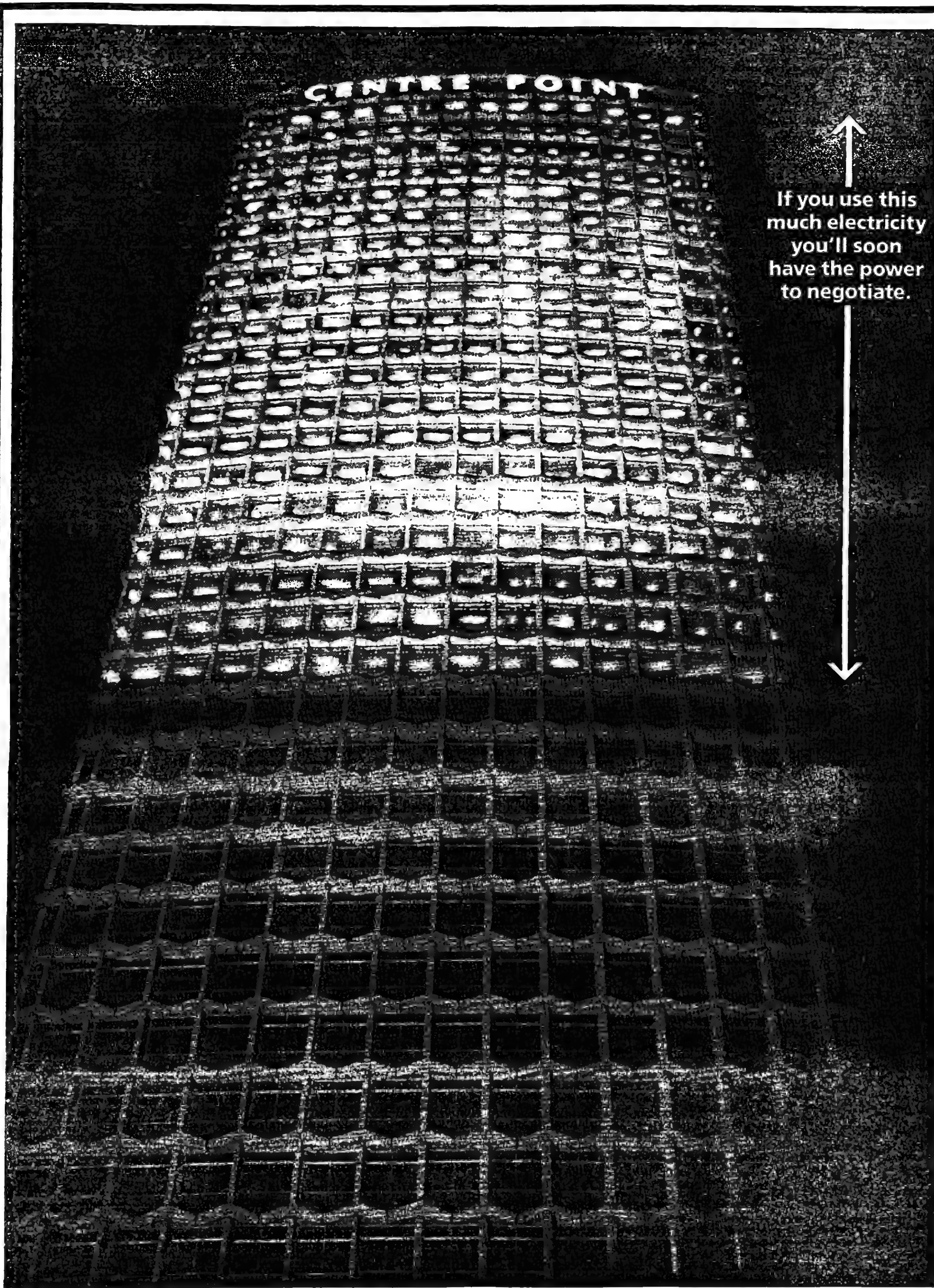
Claims required for +44 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53777

No.	Company	Comp.	Gain or loss
1	Security Serv	Industrial S-Z	
2	Highland Dist	Beverages	
3	Compass	Leisure	
4	Wellcome (ns)	Industrial S-Z	
5	Central TV	Leisure	
6	Clear Bros	Banks/Discount	
7	STC (ns)	Electronics	
8	BAT (ns)	Tobacco	
9	Mitel	Electronics	
10	Gemdale (ns)	Industrial S-K	
11	Cheltenham (ns)	Beverages	
12	Motor Oil	Paper/Print/Adv	
13	Low & Sear	Industrial L-R	
14	Leeds Wm Co	Drugs/Stores	
15	Sale Tilly	Industrial S-Z	
16	Fleming (ns)	Industrial E-K	
17	Shale	Hotels/Catering	
18	Shawcross (ns)	Drugs/Stores	
19	Davis & Met 'A'	Industrial A-D	
20	Prozac	Electronics	
21	Portals	Industrial L-R	
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23	Baltic Plc	Food	
24	Concorde	Industrial A-D	
25	Bodyside	Industrial A-D	
26	Abbey National (ns)	Banks/Discount	
27	Truistone Plc (ns)	Hotels/Catering	
28	Castrol	Industrial A-D	
29	Marshall	Building/Roads	
30	Unilever (ns)	Food	
31	Ramson	Industrial L-R	
32	BWT	Industrial A-D	
33	VG Instruments	Electronics	
34	Devenish (JA)	Beverages	
35	Borthwick	Food	
36	Proudford Alexander	Industrial L-R	
37	Hepworth	Industrial S-K	
38	ML Hops	Industrial L-R	
39	Rolls-Royce (ns)	Motors/Aircraft	
40	Tarmac (ns)	Building/Roads	
41	Toddington	Textiles	
42	Newcastle Tons	Building/Roads	
43	Canning (W)	Chemicals/Plas	
44	Scot & Robertson	Industrial S-Z	

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Portfolio	
PLATINUM	
© Times Newspapers Limited	
DAILY DIVIDEND	
£2,000	
pts required for +44 points	
pts should ring 0254-5127	
OVERSEAS TRADERS	
PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING	
PROPERTY	
SHOES, LEATHER	
TEXTILES	
TOBACCO	
WATER	



If you use this much electricity you'll soon have the power to negotiate.

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National Power

SECRET

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.

1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971) using a Shimadzu 1601 UV-Visible Spectrophotometer. The concentration of chlorophylls was expressed in mg/L.

1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971) using a Shimadzu 1601 UV-Visible Spectrophotometer. The concentration of chlorophylls was expressed in mg/L.

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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

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to £14,000 + benefits

Are you looking for more involvement? As Secretary within this busy Personnel/Administration department your tasks will include liaising with recruitment agencies, arranging temporary staff cover, administration of car fleet, record keeping, ordering supplies and stationery.

You must also have skills of at least 100/50 together with a flexible, willing and hardworking attitude. Ideal age: 22-26, relevant experience helpful. Please call Karin Chiang on 01-621 0686.

MATURE SECRETARY
c. £17,000 package

Good secretarial skills and a calm, mature attitude are needed to support this charming Director of Administration of a long established firm of Fund Managers based in stunning Broadgate offices.

Aged 30-45, polished and organised, you must be able to communicate at senior levels and cope with a variety of tasks. Occasional overtime may be required.

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£9 PER HOUR

We are one of London's most prestigious consultancies and are urgently seeking 'top-knotch' secretaries to join our expanding temporary team.

Whether you prefer an established City bank or a creative environment, we have assignments to suit your needs. We offer top rates and a personal service.

If you have experience in Wang, Wordperfect, Olivetti, Multimate or Microsoft Word please call Jo Trussell on 01-621 0686 or Andrea Rose on 01-439 6021.

SEARCHING FOR SUCCESS
c. £15,000

This is your chance to work for one of the world's leading International Executive Search consultancies as PA to their Chief Executive and be based in beautiful West End Offices.

The role requires utmost confidentiality as you will liaise with clients and candidates at most senior levels and see top level assignments through from beginning to end.

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Into the City.
Into the 90's.

Secretaries

Chairman and Chief Executive's office

The International Stock Exchange is one of the world's leading financial institutions: a fast-moving, progressive organisation right at the heart of the City.

We have two interesting opportunities in the Chairman and Chief Executive's private office, at the top of the Stock Exchange tower. These roles represent an ideal entrée into the world of finance and could be stepping stones to more senior opportunities both within and outside the ISE.

Senior Secretary to £14k

You'll be assisting two Executive Secretaries, but also providing some direct secretarial support to the Chairman and Chief Executive, so experience of working for a senior manager would be an advantage. Your role will encompass a variety of responsibilities, including organising meetings and social occasions, keeping a diary and making travel arrangements. Considerable internal and external liaison will be involved.

It follows that you will need a mature approach, good communications skills, a high standard of presentation and the ability to work quickly and accurately under pressure. We are also looking for shorthand speeds of 120 wpm, and WP/typing speeds of 50 wpm.

Assistant Secretary to £10k

You'll be providing typing, word processing and clerical support to the private office staff - often to tight deadlines! There will also be a range of general office duties such as answering telephone queries and photocopying.

Ideally a college leaver, you will have an excellent command of English, 50 wpm typing and, ideally, shorthand. WP skills would be an asset but we are willing to train you if necessary.

This is your chance to develop your secretarial career in a prestigious, high level environment. Excellent benefits include free season ticket, non-contributory pension, subsidised lunches and free health insurance.

For further information please send your cv to Maggie Shirm, Principal Recruitment Officer, The Recruitment Centre, The International Stock Exchange, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP. Tel: 01-588 2355. Fax: 01-588 7701.

P.A./SECRETARY
TO ROGER SAULDESIGNER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR
OF MULBERRY COMPANY

Roger Saul runs this international operation from Chilcompton in North Somerset. The Company's reputation, particularly in fashion accessories, has won world renown and two Queens Awards for Export.

As P.A. you can expect to be stretched, supporting not only the Managing Director, but also organising the Directors' secretaries. In addition to general secretarial work, the role will encompass some personnel, hosting and co-ordination. It would be a distinct advantage to speak foreign languages, particularly Italian, French and German.

The successful candidate is certain to have high standards and a good sense of humour to cope with this demanding, constantly changing role.

Please write enclosing your C.V. to Linda Collins, Mulberry Company (Design) Ltd, The Rookery, Chilcompton, Nr Bath, Somerset, BA3 4EH

Senior
Personal Secretary
to the Chief Executive

£14,000 Plus

The ETB is responsible for the promotion and development of tourism in England.

This post offers a stimulating role for somebody seeking a good overview of the policies of the Board and the work of the various Divisions.

Working directly with the Chief Executive and alongside Regional Liaison staff as part of a small team, you will naturally possess good secretarial skills (including shorthand and word processing) and sound organisational and administrative skills. Equally, the ability to draft correspondence, delegate enquiries and monitor their progress on the Chief Executive's behalf is essential. You will be able to liaise confidently and diplomatically at a senior level with both internal and external contacts.

The post would suit someone who has a keen interest in the work of the Board and tourism in general, and who has a pleasant and calm disposition.

Please send all C.V.s to be received by 19th January to Noreen McCain, Senior Personnel Officer, Personnel Department, English Tourist Board, Blacks Road, Hammersmith W6 9EL. Tel: 846 9000.



News International Newspapers Limited

SUNDAY TIMES
SECRETARY TO DEPUTY EDITORAged 23 plus
Salary: £15,587

To work as Secretary to the Deputy Editor of the Sunday Times and to assist another executive.

The successful applicant will have worked at a senior level for at least three years, be educated to A level standard, with sound secretarial skills (100/60), proven administrative ability and excellent telephone manner.

Hours of work: Tuesday to Saturday 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

An excellent benefits package is offered which includes six weeks holiday and BUPA.

Applicants should apply in writing only, enclosing a CV together with daytime telephone number, to

Mrs B Hemmings
Recruitment Manager
News International Newspapers Limited
PO Box 481
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An Organising Forte?

An International Management Consultancy of considerable standing and success currently seeks a diplomatic, organised PA for a co-ordinating role. Working for two Managers you will be responsible for prioritising a busy workload; organising schedules, complicated travel arrangements, presentations etc. Flexible team spirit, initiative and the ability to prioritise are essential. Good skills (80/50) requested. Age 21-24 with minimum 1 year's experience? Salary c£14,500 + excellent benefits. For further information call 01-493 0713 today.

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University of London

Secretary to the
Postgraduate
Dental Dean

This is a senior secretarial post in one of our busiest departments. In addition to normal secretarial duties for the Dean, the job involves some committee work and the organization of training schemes for new graduates and postgraduates working within the NHS.

Previous experience at a senior level is not essential, but would be helpful. Salary on a scale from £11,949 to £13,759 p.a. inclusive of London Allowance with generous holiday entitlement.

Further details can be obtained from the Federation Secretary, BPMF, 33 Millman Street, London WC1N 3BJ (Tel: 01-531-6222).

Closing date for applications is Thursday 25 January 1990.

Chairman's PA
£18,000

To work for the charming, but demanding, Chairman of this major advertising group requires a professional PA with previous senior level advertising experience who enjoys the responsibility and pressure that are part of being at the top of an international organisation. Actively involved in both running the group as well as client business, your boss needs first-class secretarial and administrative support and will be relying on you at all times. This is a busy, sometimes hectic, position which would suit an efficient, flexible person looking for a new challenge. Age: 25-35 Skills: Fast audio

RECRUITMENT
COMPANY
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KNIGHTSBRIDGE
SECRETARIES

KNIGHTSBRIDGE OPEN DAY & EVENING

We are holding an Open Day & Evening TODAY! We are looking for 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and invite you to combine your sales shopping with job hunting. We meet every morning and evening in the City. We offer a high salary and we look forward to meeting you over a cup of coffee or glass of wine to discuss how you can develop your career at the 1990's.

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31A St James Street, London SW1

Chameleon
£10,000 +
bonus

Young team of executive headhunters need a warm-hearted chameleon - so be able to change from putting important international clients at their ease to the secret at the close of an exciting deal (and popping the corks, fixing the company's sick weekend etc.). Beautiful offices close to Bank. If you're bored by hatching a typewriter, call Esther on 01-256 5015.

Heathrow
£12,000 + bens

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join a well known airline. As secretary to a newly appointed Head of Division you will assist him to establish his important role by providing sound secretarial and administrative support (audio typing/ WP, shorthand useful). This is a busy job with scope to take on further responsibilities. Age 20-30.

Please telephone
Fiona Marriott on
01-434 4512

COLLEGE
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to £12,000

I am currently looking for college leavers or candidates with 6 months' experience to work as: Television, Publishing, Sales, Marketing and Property. You should be well educated and presented, have good secretarial skills and want to work in an interesting and demanding environment. There are some of the most exciting opportunities around.

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IN AMERICA

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Messages of social events to organise, evenings at the opera, lunches and sporting events. Co-ordinate this Board Director's day using your excellent audio & WP (50 wpm) skills. Internal friendly environment, competent and confident secretaries with ambition to progress into account handling in one of the largest agencies in the world. Please call Tina Edwards.

01-486 6951

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If you are a people person, artistic and efficient this post will offer you interest and progression. This design company is situated in Camden in the most delightful mews and needs your previous experience at handling calls and message taking, plus greeting all visitors. I will be happy to see all attractive and well spoken candidates. Call Lynn Lait.

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Sarath Hodge Recruitment ConsultantsVERY SENIOR PA
Up to 18K

Support the senior partner of a large successful law firm in the city and involve yourself in important and stimulating work. Arrange vital conferences and social engagements, liaising at top level. Benefits include BUPA, paid o/t, etc.

Phone 434 0030 for the full story.

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24 HOUR ANSWERPHONE AND FAX ON 01-484 7800

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FRENCH AND
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French Advertising/Marketing Company in West London requires secretaries with fluent French. Exciting prospects for the right people. Shorthand useful, excellent telephone manner essential. c.£12,000 plus benefits.

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Glamorous position for top flight PA. Fluent in French. Real opportunities for involvement. Daily use of French. English must be to mother tongue standard. c.£14,500 - £15,000 + benefits. English shorthand essential. Age 24+.

TRAVEL WITH ITALIAN!

Fluent Italian required for an exciting one-off chance to do some world travel. This is a new job and your progressive boss will want you to make the most of your strengths. Design it around what you want. Graduate level. c.£11,000 negotiable. English shorthand is useful. Poise and confidence essential.

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NEEDED FOR BUSY RESIDENTIAL
MANAGEMENT COMPANY
KEW GREEN

Why not work locally and join our lively team? WP essential, driving an advantage.

Ring 940 4555 for informal discussion.

Secretary/
Administrator Wine

Small wine shippers by Lambeth Palace, opposite Westminster, seek versatile hard working person with secretarial background to help with the administration of our busy office. French an asset, accuracy essential together with an interest in wine.

RSPV Jeremy Hunt, Thorman Hunt & Co Ltd, 4 Pratt Walk, Lambeth, London SE11 6AR.

PRIVATE
SECRETARY
TO
DIRECTOR

Shorthand essential. Furnished flat available. Write, stating experience and salary required to: Dr Sinclair, International Nutrition Foundation, Sutton Courtenay, Oxon OX14 4AW.

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Based in a gorgeous studio in W9 turn your hand to anything! This is a highly creative office in PR, Fashion, Recruitment and Marketing. Act as a back-up with your excellent typing, admin, figures and people skills. Call Moira on 01-286 4777

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£15,000
+ CAR

Confident and flexible PA with good all round secretarial & organisational skills. Well presented, capable of liaising with important clients. Good perks.

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LEGAL SECRETARIES

£14,000++
WC2, EC1
SW1, SW10
NW1, E1
EC4, SW5
Partner level. Immediate start. Call Kelly on 01-588 2284. Malls Legal Secretaries.

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Prof knowledge of Spanish and French, bookkeeping, and costings for small international fashion company in Chelsea. Travelling may be involved. Salary from £12,000. Tel: 747 3826

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PA/SECRETARY

In well established Kensington Estate Agents. Masses of client contact, visits to houses etc. 5 day week. Ring 01-727 6663. Starting salary £10,000.

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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

01-481 4481

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PR - A First Step

You want PR - but not the drop in salary? You want creative - in a City location? The richest and most high-profile City client is offering an outstanding opportunity to an experienced secretary with these ambitions. A position where your ideas count, where your input to new PR strategies is requested and your presence at decision-making meetings is vital. The job is brand new - the need for confidentiality is paramount as your clients make international headlines. This really is a superb job.

You must be bright and outgoing in your early 20's and possess excellent skills (90/50) and be ready for a demanding and fast moving role where you will be part of a dynamic, hand-picked team. Salary £12,000 plus £5,000 mortgage subsidy. Tel: 01-872 8887.

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City
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ASSISTANT RESEARCHER
£11,000 + PERKS
If you are a graduate or you just feel it's time for a change of direction this wonderful opportunity could be yours. You will gather and collate information using many different sources, you will become involved in all aspects of research as well as being a pillar of strength to the other consultants. If you feel you are well with people and can fit into a closely knit team please give me a call. Call Julia...

Susan Beck
RECRUITMENT 01-594 4242

ESPAÑOL, FRANCÉS & ALEMÁN
£14,000 + EXC. PACKAGE
Spanish, French and German spoken. If you can speak these languages fluently and feel it's time to put your skills to good use, this is the opportunity for you. You will be responsible for updating material and also liaising with clients in the business development within Europe. The position enables you to use your own initiative and creativity to help the company grow. Call Julia...

Susan Beck
RECRUITMENT 01-594 4242

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS
£13,500 + BENEFITS
This Education Foundation is seeking a second person to help run its small London office. You will liaise between the UK and the USA on behalf of the foundation almost everyday, you will be responsible for updating material and also liaising with clients in the business development within Europe. The position enables you to use your own initiative and creativity to help the company grow. Call Julia...

Susan Beck
RECRUITMENT 01-594 4242

GOING, GOING, GONE!
£11,500
This world famous Auction House requires a bright well spoken secretary to work in their Wine Dept. This is not just a normal secretarial position as there is an awful lot of using between Switzerland and France, so a good command of French is essential and good secretarial skills. Call now Beverly.

Susan Beck
RECRUITMENT 01-594 4242

THE HEART OF MAYFAIR
£14,500 + ++
This young commercial property company based in the West End requires a good all round secretary to work in their PR and Marketing Dept. The ideal candidate must have a great personality, and share an interest in the property world, excellent secretarial skills and no shorthand required. Call now Beverly.

Susan Beck
RECRUITMENT 01-594 4242

ART GALLERY
£13,500 + ++
The well known contemporary art gallery based in London requires a bright good all round secretary to work in their business development within Europe. The ideal candidate must have a good command of French is essential and good secretarial skills. Call now Beverly.

Susan Beck
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INTERNATIONAL

Senior PA/Secretary to Senior Partner in the Farms Department
Administrative capabilities, good audio typing, strong personality and a team worker able to prioritise.

Senior PA/Secretary to a Departmental Partner
Must have at least 5 years experience, good organiser, accurate audio typing, team worker with a good sense of humour.

Junior Secretary in our Residential Office in Kensington
Working in a small team, audio typing, WP and general office duties. Must have a good educational background and be able to cope with showing people over properties.

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Knight Frank & Rutley
20 Hanover Square
London
W1R 0AH
Tel: 01-629 8171

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Sophisticated training programmes together with friendly and helpful support will allow the ideal applicant to become totally involved in their new environment. You will be given the opportunity to utilise your secretarial skills, learn new word processing packages and develop the areas you most enjoy whilst gaining business knowledge and experience.

First interviews will be held in our offices, situated in Regent Street with second interviews taking place with our clients.

If you would like the opportunity to discuss your career with us, we will be delighted to see you, just call us on 01-872 8887 to arrange a suitable date and time. As well as helping our clients, we would like to help you!

MacBlain Nash
WEST END
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Partner's Secretary
Management Consultants

£14,000

The Banking and Finance Division of Price Waterhouse Management Consultants seeks a PA/Sec for a Partner who specialises in IT Consultancy work. Knowledge of computer terminology and a calm, organised approach to each day are essential for this busy and varied job working with clients worldwide. Full PA duties required together with extensive team contact to keep projects moving. The office is located in superb accommodation overlooking the Thames at London Bridge.

Benefits include: STL, swimming pool, subsidised restaurant, paid overtime and Christmas Bonus.

If you have experience at a senior secretarial level, preferably in the City, as well as unflagging energy, please write to:
Mrs Jenny Kahill,
Price Waterhouse Management Consultants,
1 London Bridge,
London SE1 9QL.

Price Waterhouse

The BUSINESS PEOPLE Ltd

USE YOUR BRAINPOWER!!

£13,000 + Benefits

If you feel that you are not challenged enough in your present position, our client, a market leader in its field, has an opportunity for a strong organiser to join a 'fascinating' division. Your excellent sec skills set the standard for your two juniors. High admin content.

Telephone 01-792 3939 today.

NEW YEAR - NEW JOB

The Mayfair based London office of a major Japanese Corporation with a diverse range of international interests is looking for a versatile extremely competent PA/Secretary to work at Senior Director level.

If you possess an excellent sense of humour, are well organised & have knowledge of the Wang PC system - then this could be the job for you.

Excellent remuneration package offered.

Reply to Box B41

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

Airline Leasing

£17,000 plus bonus

A major Airline Leasing Group needs a PA to the Chief Financial Officer. From a superb West End base you will have worldwide contact through offices in Hong Kong, Tokyo and New York, be at the heart of the deals speaking directly to clients and seeing the whole project through. Age 30-40 Skills 100/70.

01-629 9323

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

Personal Assistant

£16,000

This appointment is a true mix of a business PA and social organiser. You need a quick, efficient brain to back-up a young, energetic Director of a major British Organisation and a natural social awareness to help him run two homes and organise many leisure activities. Age 28-35 Skills 100/60.

01-629 9323

P/A Secretary

City Public Relations to £11,250 + Review

Citigate Marketing is a young PR and Advertising Consultancy specialising in the Financial Services sector.

As the result of our continued success we require a PA/Sec to work closely both with our busy MD and our small friendly team.

You will need to be energetic, enthusiastic, flexible and be used to working on your own initiative, often under pressure. We are based in modern offices near Bank, Liverpool and Fenchurch Street stations.

You will be primarily responsible for the day-to-day running of the MD's hectic diary and schedule and will need to acquire a detailed understanding of his PR clients and their needs.

You will have excellent shorthand (90-100 wpm), and typing skills of 50-60 wpm, as well as excellent administrative and organisational ability. Experience on IBM Multimate WP is preferable.

In the first instance, contact Charlotte Horn at:
Citigate Marketing
7 Birch Lane,
London EC3V 9BY.
Tel: 01-623 2737.

(No agencies)

Citigate
marketing

FIMBRA

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

The Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association was appointed under the Financial Services Act to regulate some 8,000 firms which offer independent investment advice and services to the general public. The affairs of the Association are managed by a council and its committees.

An opening now exists for a Committee Secretary to provide all necessary support to some of these committees. This will involve organising meetings; preparing and issuing agendas and all supporting papers; taking the minutes; liaising with committee members and dealing with correspondence relevant to the work of the committees. Reporting to the Secretary of the Association s/he will be a member of a small team responsible for all secretarial and administrative functions.

Applicants must be experienced at taking and transcribing minutes, and possess good administrative, communication and keyboard skills. This position could well appeal to a skilled secretary who is now looking for the opportunity to work on his or her own initiative. Non-smoker preferred.

FIMBRA is based in a modern office building in Docklands, with train and bus connections close by. A good salary and benefit package is offered including a generous L.V. allowance, PPP, STL and pension scheme.

Please apply in writing, enclosing a comprehensive CV, to:

Daphne Vanderstegen, FIMBRA
Herbert House, Marsh Wall
London, E14 3PW

NO AGENCIES PLEASE

CALLING THE CREAM OF LONDON'S
PA's, SECRETARIES, ADMINISTRATORS
AND RECEPTIONISTS

ADVANCE TO

MAYFAIR

And join us at Mayfair Recruitment (W1) Limited, as we move forward into the 1990's.

DIRECTORS PA £15,000
A marvellous opportunity has arisen for a top quality PA to join the Director of this small, but extremely successful Property Company, based in W1. He is busy, very hardworking, with a great sense of humour. You'll be in your mid-20's, smartly presented and be in possession of 100 wpm shorthand and 60 wpm typing skills. Do you come up to the mark? Then call: 01 409 3292

SENIOR PARTNER SECRETARY £14,500
Assist this busy partner by organising his diary, making travel arrangements and, most importantly, arranging his messages. Good audio typing skills are required for this position, as well as the ability to keep calm in a crisis!

JUNIOR SECRETARY £12,000
This is an ideal position for a second jobber. Further your secretarial career with this well known Art Gallery based in W1. Good audio typing & a pleasant personality are all that's required to join this small friendly team.

We have many more vacancies for Secretarial staff within Property, Fashion and Television.

CALL US NOW ON 01 409 3292 FOR IMMEDIATE INTERVIEW.

01-584 3222

TM

01-584 3222

DO YOU WANT

18K?

It can be yours if you are an experienced PA/Sec who wants to work for two young Directors in a major international company. Age 21-25. 100/50. Languages useful.

Please call us for an interview until 6.00pm.

LONDON BRUSSELS

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Pour une équipe de consultants

Agée de 25 à 35 ans

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01-629 4091

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OLYMPIA & YORK



Olympia & York is a major international company. It is building Canary Wharf in London's Docklands, Europe's largest commercial development. We are currently looking to recruit in the following areas:

LEGAL SECRETARY

First class secretarial & administrative support for in-house solicitor. Fast and accurate audio W/P skills. Ability to work to deadlines without close supervision. Some previous legal experience essential. Ref. L100
Salary to £15,000.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Mature individual to organise day to day activities of hectic department. Applicant should be resilient, articulate, and have strong interpersonal skills. Sound knowledge of data base and wordprocessing packages (Paradox, Lotus, DW4, WordPerfect). Highly demanding and pressurised role. Ref. M100
Salary to £16,000.

SECRETARIAL

We currently have a number of secretarial vacancies which require excellent audio/wordprocessing skills. A minimum of 3 years secretarial experience. These positions will appeal to self starters who want to use their initiative. Ref. M101
Salary to £14,000, depending on qualification and experience

PART TIME/EVENINGS

Receptionist/Telephoneist required to work from 5:00 to 8:30 PM - Monday to Friday. Neat and professional appearance. Good telephone manner. Ref. A100
Salary £5.25/hour after successful completion of 2 week training period at £3.50/hour.

The Company has extremely high standards and all candidates are required to have 'O' level standard education or equivalent and present themselves in a professional manner.

In return we offer: competitive salaries with yearly reviews, free Bupa, life assurance, disability insurance, a contributory pension scheme, 4 weeks holidays and Season Ticket loans. Currently based in Westminster, relocating to the Docklands 1991.

To apply for one of the above vacancies please write, indicating the job reference and enclosing a detailed CV to:

Mrs Gloria Broutille, Personnel Manager, Olympia and York Canary Wharf Ltd
10 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AE

AHEAD START
£12-£14,000 +

An excellent career opportunity that would suit either a mature College-Leaver or someone with 6 to 12 months secretarial experience. As a trainee P.A. for 3 years, easy-going & fun Fund Managers at this top City brokerage you will be responsible for organizing their, at times, chaotic day. Lots of telephone contact, meetings/travel to arrange, typing and general admin duties. If you are quick, bright and enthusiastic please call us now:

01-283 0799

(Recruitment Consultants)

CROSS
SELECTION

18K Package

A quick-thinking well presented young secretary with good skills is required by this Major Int. Bank. Working mainly for a Director whilst helping to support his small, lively team, this post will best suit someone who enjoys variety, involvement and responsibility. Duties include: Diary, travel arrangements and client liaison. Stunning office, a busy environment & the very best banking benefits (including Mortgage Subsidy) are offered in return for hard work and at least 2 years' solid secretarial experience.

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CALL:

01-283 0799

(Recruitment Consultants)

CROSS
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ASSOCIATES

DEALING ROOM

SEC/ASST

£14,500 + MORTGAGE SUBSIDY

Very little shorthand involved. Responsibilities involve keeping track of departmental expenses, general administration for the dealers and arrangement of presentations. The pace is fast but exciting with plenty of interesting senior delegated responsibility.

Tel: 01-725 4132 (ansaphone out of office hours) Fax: 01-796 4887

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ORGANISER

£11,000 + BONUS

+ FREE 3 COURSE LUNCH

Shorthand not essential. Based in the Capital Markets training department there will be a lot of people contact, corporate appointments and courses. Young professional environment offering excellent career prospects.

Personnel

£13,000 + package

As Secretary to a VERY busy Personnel Manager within top City stockbroking firm, you will be encouraged to take responsibility, act on your own initiative and be trained in the use of a computer. Lots of telephone work is involved and the emphasis is on teamwork and confidentiality. WP skills & occasional audio, age 22-26. Hours 9-5 plus paid overtime. Full banking package includes immediate mortgage subsidy.

Please telephone Sabina Stewart on 01-588 3535.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

TO £17,000

If you are looking for that secretarial role with a difference, then join this international firm of management consultants. You will fill a key support role in the practice as you handle specific research projects for clients and give PA backup to their Managing Partner. A' Levels and 50 typing essential.

Please telephone 01 240 3511

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

£14,000 PA NEG

We require an enthusiastic and intelligent P.A. with good secretarial/organisational skills to assist General Manager of deluxe hotel in Belgium opening shortly.

Please apply in writing with full C.V. to:

c/o The Times

Box B08

PA TO MD

£18,000 + Bonus. Charming young Chief Executive of a prestigious PR/Advertising Co. in Victoria, seeks a PA/Sec. with a mature outlook. You should be bright and articulate with excellent English, combined with top secretarial skills 90/60. Age 24-32. Please contact:

Diana Stevens at King and Tolson Recruitment Consultants on 01-629 9048.

MAJOR ARTS TRUST

£12,700

Exp. PA secretary to help in a very busy office with lots of contact both personal and on the telephone with sponsors. First top 50 wpm WP and SH. Ref: 1000.

On Top Recruitment 01-435 7482

KNIGHTSBRIDGE INTERIOR DESIGN COMPANY

requires Secretary for their Battersea office. Typing 50 wpm, shorthand 60/80 wpm, WP helpful. Salary £9,500 pa.

Tel: 01 978 2088.

TEMP TO PERM

£14,500

Legal/WP Litigation & Wordperfect Sec. WCs Co. with friendly atmosphere to start ASAP.

Phone Jill Nash Recruitment 01 - 287 8370

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College Leaver

£10,500 + excellent benefits

Magnificent opportunity for a bright, enthusiastic College Leaver to work at senior level in this prestigious private club in SW1. Assisting the Chairman's PA, initiative, drive, ambition and discretion are the key qualities needed to sustain this busy, fast-paced role. Extensive contact with VIPs, directors and members - so confident communication skills imperative. Tremendous admin content: organising invites, menus, RSVPs for banquets and formal dinners, cataloguing works of art etc. Fantastic surroundings. Whizzy job needing a whizzy, organised personality and excellent skills (90/50). Telephone 01-493 5787.

GORDON-YATES

PA of the 1990's

Highly competitive remuneration

An enviable and key role has arisen with our client, an immensely successful commercial enterprise based in the City. This is a true PA position for an outstanding individual who can bring together highly competent organisational and communication skills with impeccable social grace. Naturally, you have an impressive track record to date of working at senior level - within fast-moving environments. You have more than a passing interest in new technology and its potential and your secretarial skills are exceptional. If you are a Graduate, looking for a fresh challenge, telephone 01-493 5787 for further details.

GORDON-YATES

A touch of glamour...

£13,000 - Fluent French

Free cosmetics and 5 weeks holiday are only part of the package offered by our client, one of the world's most exclusive and adored Haute Couture and Perfumery houses. As PA to their quick-thinking Promotions Manager, you'll be based in the magnificent London HQ and you'll enjoy daily contact with their Paris office, helping with the co-ordination and monitoring of conferences and promotions, typing speeches, presentations etc. Computer literacy essential. Skills (90/50) needed. Fluent French pre-requisite. Age 23+. If your standards are high, you'll relish this front-line role. Telephone 01-493 5787.

GORDON-YATES

Creativity in Little Venice

Innovative force in Landscape Architecture and Design seeks a bright College Leaver or 2nd jobber for an organisational position. Flexibility, a desire for total involvement and an interest in design are the key attributes required for this global role. You will liaise extensively with overseas clients (so fluent French or Spanish essential), assist with admin and organise systems. Plenty of scope and variety assured. Creative background. useful. Typing 45 wpm requested. Salary £11,500 aae. Call 01-409 1232 to hear more.

Recruitment Consultants
to the Communications Industry

THE
WORK
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PA to Chief Executive

£16,000 - PR

Experienced, discreet, stylish PA sought to work with the Chief Executive of one of the world's most successful PR agencies. He is fair-minded, expects commitment and high standards and rewards these with challenge, responsibility and total involvement. Your role will be wide-ranging and extremely diverse - in addition to full PA activities, you'll initiate, attend and feedback meetings; handle recruitment of all secretarial/support staff; co-ordinate personnel admin - liaising directly with appropriate Directors. Must be quick to spot opportunities and identify potential problems. Skills (80/50). Age 23+. Call 01-409 1232.

Recruitment Consultants
to the Communications Industry

THE
WORK
SHOP

TV Post Production

To £13,000 + benefits

Leading TV post-production company producing pop promos, corporate videos and TV commercials, seeks a socially-confident, impeccably-presented individual to assist a senior Director. Very much a sales/service environment with masses of client contact, dealing with queries, quotes, negotiating with clients re production. Lots of potential, variety and involvement. Skills (80/50). Age 20+. If you're a strong, outgoing personality, an effective communicator with lots of initiative and prepared to have a go at anything, we'd love to hear from you. Call us today on 01-409 1232.

Recruitment Consultants
to the Communications Industry

THE
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SHOP

SECRETARIES

Law Firm

We are in the process of moving to a major new building in Fleet Street and are seeking secretaries to join our Company and Commercial Department. Secretaries who share the same standards of professionalism and efficiency that have made and kept us one of the country's leading law firms will be interested in applying to us.

Previous legal experience would help, but more important is a smart appearance, lots of commonsense and a cheerful disposition. You will need a minimum of 5 'O' levels - one of which



Fleet Street

must be English ('A' level would be a big advantage) and good secretarial skills including audio and WP experience.

Sounds like you? Join us and you'll receive an excellent salary and benefits including LVs, Season Ticket loan, BUPA, Bonus, Permanent Health Insurance and a Non-contributory Pension Scheme. There is also a thriving sports and social scene.

Just write to Helen Morrison, Freshfields, Grindall House, 25 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7LH. NO AGENCIES PLEASE.

FRESHFIELDS

London Brussels Hong Kong New York Paris Singapore Tokyo

CHARTLEIGH

GUARDIAN ANGEL

Join the firm in the heart of the West End as their receptionist and take charge of the complete day. You will be responsible for incoming calls, mail, photocopying, typing, and general office duties. The position offers a great opportunity to develop your skills in a fast-paced environment. Salary: £10,500 p.a. Call 01-734 5675.

MARKETING POTENTIAL

Looking for the encouragement to develop in your next role? Then you need look no further. Working at the heart of the business, you will be responsible for a wide range of marketing activities, including sales, advertising, and public relations. Salary: £11,000 p.a. Call 01-734 5675.

ARE YOU WORD PERFECT?

We currently have a selection of excellent vacancies for WP operators at various locations throughout London. Working in highly professional companies with a variety of work environments, your hard work will be rewarded with a generous salary plus extensive company benefits. Experience of WordPerfect 5.1 is an advantage although some training is available. Call 01-734 5675.

BREAK INTO PERSONNEL

Acting as PA to the Personnel Officer in this multinational company is the ideal first step to a career in Personnel. The position demands total involvement and flexibility with a positive and enthusiastic approach to work. Confidentiality is of the essence as you will be dealing with delicate personnel work. Excellent personal and professional development opportunities. Salary: £14,200 p.a. Call 01-734 5675.

FLAIR FOR GRAPHICS

Hold up your own department by giving this prestigious architectural practice in the West End the creative touch. You will be responsible for all aspects of the firm's graphic design, including brochures, reports, and presentations. If you are interested in the field of graphics and can take on the responsibility of your own section, call us now. Great opportunity offering you an excellent salary, prospects and the usual benefits. Call 01-734 5675.

THE DUTCH HOUSE, 307 - 308 HIGH HOLBORN WC1N 7LR

29/31 OXFORD ST, W1R 1RE
01-734 5675

14 GREAT CASTLE STREET, OXFORD CIRCUS, W1N 1LA
01-255 3140

43 BROMPTON RD, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, SW2 1DE
01-225 1777

36-44 MOORGATE, EC2R 6EL
01-638 7003

NSPCC

A NEW JOB FOR THE NEW YEAR PERSONAL ASSISTANT

£16,380 - £17,532 per annum inc.

A major children's charity, we are moving forward into the 1990's and are looking for an experienced secretary/administrator to work with the Society's recently appointed Director, Christopher Brown.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and organised individual who is used to acting on his/her own initiative. Able to manage the Director's time effectively, you will have experience of organising diaries and maintaining filing systems. You will work closely with the Director, and must possess shorthand skills and accurate typing skills. Word processing skills are essential although training will be given in the use of Wordstar 2000+ if necessary. A flexible approach to work is essential together with a polite, friendly disposition as the postholder will liaise with a wide range of people internally and externally from all sections of society. Experience of writing reports, letters, memoranda, is desirable together with a good standard of written and spoken English.

In addition to providing an efficient secretarial/administrative service, you will supervise the work of the Director's secretarial staff ensuring the smooth running of the office.

Lots of patience, tact and diplomacy are required. The ability to maintain a high degree of confidentiality is essential, as is a sense of humour. Applications are welcome from suitably qualified candidates irrespective of sex, race, religion, ethnic origin, disability, sexual orientation, or marital status.

Applications in writing please to Personnel Department, NSPCC, 67 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RS.
Closing date 25th January 1990.
(The office is non-smoking).
Initial interviews will be held on Wednesday 31st January 1990.

THE NSPCC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

The Driving Force

£18,000 + mortgage

The Head of Capital Markets in an American Investment Bank needs an experienced senior PA with drive and commitment to organise him and keep a tight rein on his team.

Working with a junior secretary in the thick of a large and noisy dealing room, your responsibilities will range from organising complex travel itineraries to preparing management reports. This is an exceptional assistant's role requiring someone experienced in the thrills and spills of City life with the enthusiasm and assertiveness vital in a dealing environment. Age 25-40, good WP/computer skills essential.

Please telephone Anna Martin on 01-588 3535.

Crone Corkill

An International Role

Bi-lingual Spanish/French

Our client is an influential name in Finance worldwide, advising exclusive clientele on private investments. Their young, International Manager currently seeks a strong, organised College Leaver/2nd Jobber for a responsible role. Besides providing full secretarial support you will have extensive overseas contact as you arrange travel, meetings as well as liaise directly with clients and colleagues abroad. Fluent Spanish and good conversational French requested. Some numeracy advantageous for future scope to develop the role. Sound skills (90/50). Age 18-24 with organisational ability? Salary to £13,000 aae. Call 01-493 5787.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

PARIS MATCH EUROPEAN DIRECTOR'S PA

£16,000 pa +++

Just imagine it. You could be in Paris by this Spring as "Right Hand" to a charming young Director of this innovative French Hotel Group. Subsidary, located in the sort of environment which positively oozes style, sophistication and serious success. As a French National himself, he requires his PA to have English at mother tongue standard, together with excellent French and good secretarial/keyboarding skills. Short-hand would be a plus. So, why just dream? Make 1990 your year to turn it into a reality and become part of our French connection. Call Ros Prescott on 01-491-1868. La Creme Consultants.

Continental Crème
LA CRÈME RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

A HARD SLOG BUT A GENUINE OPPORTUNITY

Dynamic year-old public relations consultancy urgently needs a first-class secretary/PA to organise and generally administer its rapid expansion.

This is a busy job with heavy typing duties but dedicated careerists who demonstrate talent, ability, enthusiasm in addition to excellent secretarial skills can expect to grow with the company. If you are self-motivated, well-educated and well-presented with a good sense of humour, find out more about working in this informal, but award-winning agency by ringing Penny Simpson on (01) 962 9381.

SIMPSON FITZHERBERT BERMAN

£16,500 + BONUS EXEC SEC/ PA

Required for prestigious Int Co in fabulous St James's offices, working for Sir Eric (financial prod) and facing throughout Europe, also company director, married & born 1955. Excellent sec skills, claim fast & impressive background with Finance, personal presentation for the Board Co. Offers inc. LV, Petrol, Stock, House & Bonus.

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Rec. Conts
Tel 378 0344 or Fax 378 9208

RECRUITMENT A/B RECRUITMENT

BI-LINGUAL TEMPORARY SECRETARIES

AFB are an established Bi-lingual Temporary Agency that consistently provides high calibre staff to a wide variety of London based International Corporations.

Excellent rates of pay are offered in a variety of interesting bookings within the Central London Area.

Knowledge of Italian, French, German or Spanish plus sound secretarial skills preferably with experience in one or more of the following WP's: Wang, DWA, WordPerfect, Dgital, Decima, Multimate, OPT, Olivetti 2010, Philips 3020, Wordplex, NBI is required.

For further information please contact

Jonathan Barker

831 9411

AFB Recruitment Limited, 17 Gate Street, London WC1A 3EP

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TELEVISION - FILMS - PUBLISHING - PR - MUSIC

Fed up with the dull routine in your present job? Why stay stuck in a rut when you could start afresh with a real challenge in one of our exciting and varied jobs in the media. If you have secretarial skills and thrive in a creative atmosphere we have the best selection of permanent and temporary vacancies in London. Call us now for further details and friendly advice.

JUDY FISHER

ASSOCIATES

01-437 2277

Recruitment Consultants

JUNIOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

C £11,000

Young team player required to join executive level in superb modern office block overlooking the Thames next to Hays Galleria. Pleasant, confident manner needed to look after senior partners in this management consultancy with a strong European bias. WP work for marketing team and reception duties for the unit.

Benefits include STL swimming pool, subsidised restaurant, paid overtime and Christmas Bonus.

Please phone Pippa Flower on (01) 378 7200 Ext-4034 for an application form, or write to her at Price Waterhouse Management Consultancy, 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL.

CALLING JUNIOR SECRETARIES

£8,000-£10,000 + Perks

Design, property, banking, fashion... we have a number of clients urgently seeking young secretaries with enthusiastic, outgoing personalities and good skills; all of whom offer excellent benefits and opportunities to progress. Whether you are a college leaver or have only a few months' work experience call Amanda Watkins for an immediate interview on 01-408 0424

3-71 NEW BOND STREET W1YND, LONDON W1

Tate

APPOINTMENTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

Is management your goal? If you're craving for it, instead of not getting it, for whatever reason, here's your opportunity. Ideally at least one year's experience in the general commercial/secretarial market is desired from a West End environment. Your potential for motivating and leading a team structure is vital.

Our company has been established for many years. We are extremely successful. We are not a high street multi-branch organisation. An excellent remuneration package is offered incorporating good basic salary and generous bonuses £20,000.

If you feel you've got that "something special", are 21+, please call now and arrange a mutually convenient time to have a talk.

ASK FOR THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

01 580 0971

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1990!
£14,000 - £18,000
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Fashion in West End
Global Air Transport
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SENIOR EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY
CALLING JUNIOR
SECRETARIES
£8,000 - £10,000 + Perks
RECRUITMENT CONSULTING
ASK FOR THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
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SOMETHING EXTRA FOR SECRETARIES - PLUS!

£10-12,250 p.a. + benefits **City**

Secretaries at KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock have something extra - extra skill, extra scope to use initiative and extra rewards.

We hand-pick our Secretaries for their professionalism, poise and personality and provide them with the prestigious working environment you would expect from one of the world's leading firms of accountants and management consultants.

If you are a bright, young Secretary who has recently left college or perhaps someone seeking a career move, you could join us in the City

either in support of one of our Department Managers, Accountants or Consultants or as part of a team.

Salaries will be between £10,000 and £12,250 p.a. plus valuable benefits and you will enjoy our professional and sociable atmosphere, knowing that your personal contribution is both valued and appreciated.

Please write, enclosing full curriculum vitae, to: Jemma Moore, KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, 1 Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London EC4V 3PD. Tel: 01-236 8000 ext. 2605.

KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock

COULD YOU ENHANCE THIS CHAIRMAN'S INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS?

As Secretary to the Chairman of Albert Fisher, the highly successful Windsor based international food services and distribution group, your professional poise, immaculate presentation and integrity will be fully utilised. He is a prominent public figure and will rely on you to organise his extensive business commitments, travel arrangements, and in addition, the many other duties associated with this prestigious company. Your initiative, commitment and confidence in liaising with clients along with excellent skills of 120/60 shorthand/typing and knowledge of WP techniques will be rewarded by an above average salary of circa £17k together with a superb benefits package which includes free parking in Windsor. Age 30 plus. Non-smoker. Tel: 01-499 0092, Senior Secretaries, 173 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9PB.

SENIOR SECRETARIES

THE RIGHT PEOPLE FOR THE RIGHT PEOPLE

JOYCE GUINNESS PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO £19,000 Successful in the position for an advanced 20-40 year with senior level experience. Good education, immaculate presentation and flexible, easy approach. First class secretarial skills including 100/60. Business and social acumen to match last moving Chief Executive's life style. A stimulating response man with a delightful sense of humour. 4-5 weeks holiday and excellent 12% benefits.	JOYCE GUINNESS GOLDMINE £14,500 25ish wanting something varied and involving, this is it. Working with two bright young masters they expect you to be self motivated, versatile, handy with a Wang WP (well cross train) and occasional audio. A real London split. Excellent fringe benefits and a bright future.	JOYCE GUINNESS PERSONNEL/ADMIN £16k Contemplating wider horizons with more responsibility and use of personal relations. 20-40 years experience - here's the ideal opportunity. Working with two administrators you will be involved in recruitment, personnel and office management and you will organise social events. Some secretarial assistance required good audio and let WP. A professional approach and excellent confidence. Age 25-40.
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Office Administrator - City

20K + benefits

Full responsibility for the administration of this high profile Management Consultancy will be your main task. Essential prerequisites are 5 years Admin/organisation experience. P.R. experience would be advantageous. Age 25 - 35. Great atmosphere!

Personal Assistant - Recruitment

£15,000 - W1

Excellent opportunity for a graduate to work at M.D. level for a dynamic Executive Recruitment Company. Good secretarial skills are essential (100/60) coupled with strong administration ability. Some management responsibility. Impeccable presentation required. Age 25-30.

Please call 01-629 7852. Graduate Appointments (Rec. Cons.)

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS

7 PRINCES STREET LONDON W1

MANPOWER

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- Very good rates of pay.
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- Exciting choice of openings.
- And opportunities for SH/Audio WP Secretaries with experience of:
- Dec-Air-In-1
- WORDPERFECT
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Call us NOW on **01-486 7865**

Temporary and Permanent. Manpower makes the difference.

LEGAL AUDIO SECRETARIES

Due to recent expansion, medium sized firm of Commercial Solicitors based in Lincoln's Inn Fields require experienced, senior legal secretaries for all departments. You should possess excellent secretarial skills, 2 years minimum experience and a professional attitude towards work. In return we offer a young, friendly environment, highly competitive salary, 5% subsidised lunches, 4 weeks holiday and biannual reviews.

Please write with full CV to Irene Masterton, Personnel Manager, **ELYN DUTTON**, 9 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3DW. (No Agencies)

PERSONNEL SECRETARY

£13,000 pa and unrivalled benefits

A forward UK company and world leader offers an exciting challenge for a secretary interested in employee relations. Working for one manager, frequent contact with other senior personnel, meetings, travel arrangements. You'll have a confident approach, use of word and data processing and a friendly, helpful attitude. You'll work in a superb office, enjoy salary reviews, a lovely restaurant and even a multi-level Central London.

Please contact Sarah Foggett or Jane Pettit on 01 433 2777

ALEXIS PERSONNEL

PUBLISHING - RICHMOND, SURREY

PA/SECRETARY TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

£13,000

Lively, intelligent, hard working PA to assist Managing Director of Export Award winning motorsport book publishers.

The successful applicant will have the initiative to deal with advertising and promotional projects, liaison with client companies at senior level and offer good shorthand/typing and WP skills.

If you are enthusiastic, a non-smoker, career minded and would like to join this small dedicated team, based in delightful offices on Richmond Hill, please phone or write with CV to Richard Poulter

HAZLETON PUBLISHING

3 Richmond Hill, Richmond, Surrey TW9 0RE
01-948-5151
NO AGENCIES PLEASE

New Year New Opportunity

First class P.A. (audio, typing, w.p.) required for small travel company in Vauxhall. Well-presented, unflappable person with good vocabulary. Lots of opportunity to take responsibility.

Write with C.V. to: Miss Sarah Dale, Director, Travel England, 401-407 Market Towers, 1 Nine Elms Lane, London SW8 5NL

VENTURE CAPITAL

£13,500 + 5% Mortgage Subsidy

This is a super opportunity for a bright, confident secretary to join the highly respected & dynamic company in Central London (Piccadilly & Central Line). You'll be working for two charming young Fund Managers, and your day will be varied, busy and involved. The company is very successful and the package excellent including £400 towards your travel, free lunch, BUPA and non-conf. pension. Excellent secretarial skills required (no shorthand). Age to 30.

Call Jo Tobin at King and Tobin Recruitment Consultants on 01-629 9842.

Creative Spirit

Are you seeking a fascinating and varied creative role to start the decade? Assisting a key Account Director and his award winning creative team in this expanding international agency you will gain exposure to all aspects of advertising. As well as providing full secretarial support, you will organise presentations and meetings, liaise extensively with clients and the media, while keeping a tight rein on the Director's busy schedule. Central to the effectiveness of the team you will have the opportunity to combine your administrative skills with creative flair. £14,000.

Specialists for young, career secretaries. 01-499 9175

FINESSE WEST END

APPOINTMENTS

European Initiative

The 1990's will be the "European Decade". Enter into the spirit by joining this Blue Chip French Bank which needs a true European in work in its high profile Property department. The key word is marketing as you liaise with clients involved in a diverse range of projects, from the Channel to Euro-Disneyland. The international flavour of this division means languages are used on a daily basis, so knowledge of another European language is essential. As PA to the Chief Executive you will take the initiative, prioritise your own day and use your excellent organisational and administrative skills to their best advantage. £18,000 package. Develop your secretarial career in a European context - Make the connection with France Europe. 01-499 9175.

FINESSE EUROPE

APPOINTMENTS

Rich Rewards

Still searching for a position offering that rare combination of genuine interest and top salary package? Achieve that ambition with this outstanding international Investment Bank where your superb PA skills will open the door to a fantastic new career within their New Business Group. Negotiating with City investment advisors, attending client presentations, training and motivating junior members of staff - there will never be a dull moment! You will need confidence, stamina and poise to cope with this demanding but fulfilling role. Skills 80/50, £18,000 package. Specialists for young, career secretaries. 01-499 9175

FINESSE CITY

APPOINTMENTS

SECRETAIRE DE DIRECTION BILINGUE ANGLAIS/FRANCAIS

Londres, EC1 Salaire : à négocier

Nous recherchons pour notre siège situé au centre de Londres une secrétaire de direction confirmée, bilingue Français/Anglais, avec une excellente sténo dans les deux langues.

Agée de 25 ans minimum, vous travaillerez pour le Directeur du Développement du Groupe et le Directeur Général Adjoint. Vous avez une expérience du secrétariat particulier de haut niveau et savez faire preuve d'initiatives. Vous savez vous adapter et avez l'esprit vif. Vous combinez à tout cela d'excellentes qualités professionnelles.

Ce poste à responsabilités, stimulant et enrichissant, exige une connaissance parfaite (écrite et parlée) des deux langues.

Salaire motivant, à négocier en fonction des qualifications.

Si ce poste vous intéresse, veuillez téléphoner à Sarah Dixon à Londres, 01-822 3533.

(NO AGENCIES)

University of London DEPUTY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

One of our busiest Deans requires a senior administrator to become a member of his team. In addition to servicing national and regional committees concerned with postgraduate dental education you would be involved in the organisation of postgraduate courses and the development of educational research projects.

Previous knowledge of university and NHS administration is not required, but secretarial experience at a senior level is advisable. We can offer a salary on an incremental scale ranging from £11,486 to £14,031 p.a. inclusive of London Allowance, and a holiday entitlement of six weeks per year.

Further details can be obtained from the Federation Secretary, BPMF, 33 Millman Street, London WC1N 3EJ (Tel: 01-831-8222). Closing date for applications is Friday, 26 January 1990.

IF YOU CAN IMPRESS US...

"We'll impress you - with an offer you can't refuse. Problem: We need top-class temporary and permanent secretaries with excellent word processing skills, but the demand exceeds supply. Solution: We will sponsor selected applicants to be properly trained in one of the leading WP programs, entirely at our own expense. This is not the usual half-hearted offering, but the same intensive 2/3 day individual course arranged for leading companies all over the country by our sister company, Anthony Cook Associates. We are also very interested to hear from WP secretaries who are already trained in WORDPERFECT, DISPLAYWRITER, SAMMA or MICROSOFT WORD on IBM and MACINTOSH machines as we have IMMEDIATE TEMPORARY VACANCIES. Graham House 24 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2BN.

01-248 3404

Anthony Cook Bureau

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

NEWS INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPERS LIMITED SECRETARY TO INSURANCE MANAGER

AGED 23 PLUS SALARY: £13,975

Excellent opportunity for a first class shorthand secretary (100/60 together with Wordstar 2000 release 5) to provide full secretarial and administrative support to the Insurance Manager. You should possess good interpersonal skills, together with the ability to work under pressure.

In return an excellent benefits package is offered which includes six weeks holiday and BUPA.

Apply in writing only enclosing a comprehensive CV together with daytime telephone number to:

Brenda Hemmings, Recruitment Manager, News International Limited, PO Box 481, Virginia Street, London E1 9BD.

ADMINISTRATOR

£14,000 MAYFAIR

Small, but highly successful Swiss owned Metal Trading Company are seeking a "born organiser" to handle all administrative duties. These will include correspondence, telex, fax, basic bookkeeping and constant international telephone liaison. The ideal person should be reliable, able to act on their own initiative, possess an outgoing personality and most importantly - a sense of humour! Relaxed, friendly but professional environment. Age 25+ Available immediately.

373 2620 (after 6 pm)

MEET THE STARS TO £15,000

Enjoy extensive contact with all sorts of personalities in the music industry when you join this well known record company as PA to their Senior Vice President. As his assistant you will work very closely with him, handling all departmental administration and giving full secretarial support. 80/55 skills needed.

Please telephone 01 240 3511

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

VICTORIA CALLING!

£18,000 pkg

Palatial offices, friendly environment and a host of superb benefits including 5% mortgage, what more could you ask for...

Our client needs a shorthand secretary able to deal with a varied sometimes hectic environment. Training on WP, plus usual sec duties including some administration. You will ideally be aged 22+, with skills of 100/50.

CALL 01-637 2552

JANE GRAHAM RECRUITMENT, 17A NEWMAN STREET, LONDON W1.

SOCIAL ADMINISTRATOR/ SECRETARY

£16,000

Organise and attend conferences and social events, arrange a complicated diary and enjoy the true PA role you've always wanted. Limited secretarial content although 80 shorthand and 50 wpm copy typing required.

Call Caroline NOW for immediate interview. (Ref: S1880) 01-486 1117.

Mistprestige RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA/ ADMINISTRATOR

Develop your career in the commercial property field

Competitive salary + valuable benefits

Prudential Portfolio Managers Limited, the investment arm of the Prudential Corporation, handles a £5 billion property portfolio which includes some of the most prestigious properties in the UK.

We now have an opportunity for a highly motivated individual with relevant experience to provide administrative support to two members of our professional Asset Management Team.

Ideally aged 30-35, you will be conscientious and enthusiastic in your work, an excellent verbal communicator with first-rate office and word-processing skills together with some experience of computing. Previous experience in the property field, although an advantage, will not be essential. A competitive salary will be enhanced by a subsidised mortgage and season ticket loan (after a short qualifying period), a non-contributory pension scheme and other financial service benefits.

In the first instance please write with full career details and stating current salary to Miss Kym Trubridge, Personnel Officer, Prudential Portfolio Managers Limited, Property Division, Princes House, 271-273 High Holborn, London WC1N 7EE. We are an equal opportunity employer.

PRUDENTIAL Prudential Portfolio Managers

TAKE YOUR PICK!

to £8.80 per hour.

WEST END 437 6032
FICCADILLY CIRCUS

CITY 256 5018
LIVERPOOL STREET

Join our temp team now

HOBSTONES RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SENIOR SECRETARY

EXCELLENT SALARY WEST END

We are a leading firm of Chartered Surveyors and Property Consultants based in the West End.

We require an enthusiastic and committed Senior Secretary to work for a Partner in our Investment Department.

You will have excellent audio skills preferably with experience of the "Wordperfect" WP system. You will be a good organiser, enthusiastic, with a confident and professional manner.

We offer an excellent salary commensurate with your skills and abilities plus a comprehensive benefits package. If you would like to be fully involved in supporting the activities of this successful and friendly department, write in confidence to:

Many Kemp, King & Co, 7 Stratford Place, London W1N 9AE
(NO AGENCIES)

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS NCVO

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR

This is an interesting opportunity for an experienced PA to assist the Director of a major voluntary organisation. The job requires exceptionally good organisational skills involving accurate diary organisation as well as the provision of first class secretarial support (shorthand essential).

You will also have excellent communication and personal skills as the job entails a great deal of planning and liaising with a wide variety of people both within and outside the organisation.

Salary up to £13,865 (including London Weighting). Five weeks holiday and Superannuation Scheme.

If you have relevant skills and like to work in a busy, friendly and stimulating environment, please telephone or write to the Personnel Office, NCVO, 26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3BU, (telephone 01 636 4066) for further details.

Closing date for completed applications: Friday, 26 January 1990.

NCVO is an equal opportunities employer.

CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

MARKETING PA

£14,500 + £5,000
mortgage subsidy + paid overtime

A major City player, constantly appearing at the upper end of the ratings tables is recruiting a young high flyer. In the fast moving and exciting area of Corporate Finance and Acquisitions you will be involved at the heart of your bosses' business - two flamboyant and fun loving Englishmen - successful directors at 30. You will be in your mid 20s with a strong and lively personality, bags of initiative and be a superb organiser in order to manage their frenetic travelling schedules, run the office in their absence and present a professional image to their prestigious clients from Germany, Japan and the Benelux. Apart from top secretarial qualifications (100/60) you will need to be self motivated and able to work under pressure. Aged 25-35. Please call 01-872 8887 in confidence.

MACBLAIN NASH
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS



MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?

TEMPORARIES CONTROLLER

We seek a cheerful, intelligent, enthusiastic professional who possesses a sense of humour and the ability to rise to a challenge in equal measures. You must have experience of running a busy temporary secretarial team for a top calibre recruitment consultancy. In return we will give you plenty of scope and whatever you feel you are worth. Are we asking too much or does such a paragon exist? Please call us on 01-631 0479.

WALKER BOOKS
PERSONAL SECRETARY/ ASSISTANT

Unflappable personal secretary/assistant required by the Publishing Director of this leading independent children's book publisher. Applicants should possess sound secretarial skills, including shorthand, be methodical and diplomatic with good organisational ability. The successful candidate will become an intrinsic member of an enthusiastic and hardworking team. Excellent working conditions and free lunches. Please apply in handwriting with c.v. to:

Miss Margaret Raeburn
Walker Books
87 Vauxhall Walk
London SE11 5HJ

Graduate/Personal Assistant
to £20,000

Our client, one of the world's leading electronics manufacturing companies, needs a bright, positive Assistant, with good communication skills, for their Corporate Planning and Marketing division. This recently established European Headquarters is involved in gathering and analysing information on current and future European market trends, business planning and development. Working closely with the General Manager and the European Market Analyst, your role will develop from secretarial towards a junior management position. The successful applicant must be a University Graduate with good keyboard/computer skills and sound commercial experience. Please telephone Elizabeth Wood on 01-434 4512.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

COUNTDOWN
1992

SPANISH

Fluent. To work on a specific project. W1 location. Typing essential, and minimum of 6 months secretarial experience. £16,500 +.

FRENCH

Fluent. Travel and Tourism. Middle. Bilingual Secretary to the General Manager. English shorthand essential. £10,000 + travel perks. The position requires a 'Right Hand' person. You will get involved in the travel industry at every level. There are also REAL job opportunities. May consider college leaver.

FRENCH

Bilingual. Qualified French Translator. French must be at mother tongue standard. Experience essential. Central London location. £17,000 negotiable.

WORK IN GERMANY! Administrator/Sec. in high-tech Computer company. Fluent German. Experience with conference/seminar organising. Short-hand. Wonderful opportunity!

MANY OTHER OPPORTUNITIES EXIST FOR PEOPLE WITH LANGUAGE AND KEYBOARD SKILLS

International Secretaries
01-491 7100

SWEDISH SPEAKING
PA/SECRETARY

A major international Mayfair based hotel owning company are looking for a Swedish speaking PA/Secretary to assist for two Board Directors. If you have knowledge of Wm, work well under pressure + could like to learn an excellent remuneration package please apply in writing enclosing CV to:

Miss L. Joseph
SAISON OVERSEAS SERVICES R.V.
186 Charles Street, London W1X 7HD
(No Agencies)

DIRECTORS SEC/PA

A private Mayfair Co. seeks an experienced, highly motivated secretary to work closely with two Directors responsible for property and financial activities. Candidates should be at least 25, well spoken and well presented, with a good sense of humour. Sound shorthand and Wm skills are required, together with experience in the relevant fields. A highly competitive salary commensurate with experience will be offered.

TELEPHONE 01-481 0040
REF: KIM HARRIS.
NO AGENCIES

PA Secretary
for 2 Vice Presidents

We are an international management consultancy. We require a friendly, extremely efficient secretary in her late 20s to 30s with an excellent secretarial background. You should enjoy providing good support and will be given your own admin responsibilities for co-ordinating our business and personal correspondence. We offer a good salary for someone prepared to work hard. Our working day is 9-5 and you may be required to stay late occasionally. You will need to be able to do some evening work. There is a lot of telephone work so you will need to be articulate and be able to speak clearly. If you have considerable typing or shorthand experience this would be advantageous.

Please send your CV marked 'PA vacancy' to:
The MAC Group
22 Grafton Street
London W1X 3LD
(No Agencies)

NIGHT OWL
£15,000 + O/T

A highly successful city based American Company is looking for an Evening Secretary to complete their busy evening team. They offer excellent working conditions and an above average salary package plus paid overtime. Hours: 4pm - 10pm. Skills: shorthand, Wm, 100/60.
Call 033 2522 or fax CV to 259 4637

NORTON ASSOCIATES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

£14,000 PA
DESIGN CO. COV GARDEN

An 'outstanding' PA with superb Wm and shorthand skills for a Design Co. in Covent Garden. The successful candidate will be responsible for all secretarial duties and will be given a very attractive salary and benefits package. Please send your CV to:

Mr. 379 8344 or FAX 379 5065

GALE ASSOCS

Rec. Cons. 379 3344

Do You Speak Our Language?

Multilingual Secretary
to £16,000

A prestigious US investment bank based in London is looking for a multilingual secretary to assist its Managing Director. The successful candidate will be responsible for all secretarial duties and will be given a very attractive salary and benefits package. Please send your CV to:

Mr. 379 8344 or FAX 379 5065

Crone Corkill

Multilingual

Fluent Japanese
£15,000

Charming Japanese Managing Director of a well known international manufacturing company is looking for a personal assistant. You will be involved in all aspects of his busy day, including organising filing, diary, meetings and liaising with regional offices. Fluent Japanese, good typing and audio skills essential. Please telephone Virginia Wache on 01-434 4512.

Crone Corkill

Multilingual

French speaking reservationist/ report assistant for French airline. Some knowledge of English. 25 days per week, free lunch and travel. 11K net. Call Crone Corkill on 01-434 4512.

Secretary PA with fluent German required for major international company. Excellent salary and benefits. 25 days per week, free lunch and travel. 11K net. Call Crone Corkill on 01-434 4512.

Translator English to French. Excellent salary and benefits. 25 days per week, free lunch and travel. 11K net. Call Crone Corkill on 01-434 4512.

Translator French to English. Excellent salary and benefits. 25 days per week, free lunch and travel. 11K net. Call Crone Corkill on 01-434 4512.

Translator German to English. Excellent salary and benefits. 25 days per week, free lunch and travel. 11K net. Call Crone Corkill on 01-434 4512.

Translator Italian to English. Excellent salary and benefits. 25 days per week, free lunch and travel. 11K net. Call Crone Corkill on 01-434 4512.

Translator Spanish to English. Excellent salary and benefits. 25 days per week, free lunch and travel. 11K net. Call Crone Corkill on 01-434 4512.

MULTI-LINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

SHEILA BURGESS INTERNATIONAL
PERSONNEL COUNSELLORS

PARIS

Public Advertising - 1989 college leaver with excellent French plus English and French shorthand. Ideal learning apt. 8,500 - 9,500 FF + 13. Interviews London, Friday 12 January.
"Shanghai Breakdown" dynamic young Marketing Manager seeks bilingual secretary, quick-thinker, with good commercial sense. Min 2 yrs exp. 9 - 12,000 FF + 13.
"Windsor" security requires confident bilingual secretary with English & French & Wm to handle all UK contacts, mainly on independent travel. Excellent potential. Min 2 yrs exp. 10 - 12,000 FF + 13.
Reading Secretary required for prestigious British Lawyers 6 - 10.00 pm Mon-Fri, rapid WP plus reasonable French. Perfect opportunity for daytime study. Negotiable salary.
Lawyer's Secretaries - previous legal experience not required. Good WP and fluent French. The best start in Paris. From 9,000 FF + 13.

CAEN

Press Attaché/Secretary for major financial institution heavily involved in the property market in Normandy. Extensive varied work opening for highly-motivated individual who will probably have already worked in France. 9 - 5,500 FF + 13.

LUXEMBOURG

Young Multilingual Secretary/PA (English/French/German) to General Manager and Marketing Manager. Excellent for 1989 or 1990 college leaver with one very good + one reasonable language. c. £15,000.

LONDON

Language School Coordinator with centres throughout UK, seek French national with fluent English. Excellent prospects for a mature personality with teaching experience and keyboard skills seeking a busy commercial environment. c. £14,000.

Personal PA/Secretary for major French bank. Must be a good communicator with professional approach and good organizational skills. English mother-tongue and fluent French. c. £13,500 + banking benefits.

PA/Secretary to newly appointed Director of leading French bank. Fluency French, E & F. Outgoing personality for contact with banking world. Potential to develop FR role. c. £14,000 + more etc.

The above is a selection of positions currently available. Our next "OPEN EVENING" for candidates wishing to relocate to Paris will be held on Thursday, 23 January 6.30 - 8.30 pm. Numbers are limited so the sooner you come the better. Please phone for further details.

The Power House, Alpha Place, London SW3 5EZ
Tel: 01 351 6931 Fax: 01 376 6240
11 Rue la Boétie, 75008 Paris
Tel: 47 42 87 52 Fax: 42 66 92 96

German
£16,000

Use your fluent German every day. Join a team of American brokers in EC2 in a hectic and expanding department where you will speak regularly to European clients, scan overseas publications for financial news items and maintain foreign press files. With 3 years' experience in a major financial or international company, knowledge of a second European language is needed. Secretarial duties require skills of 100/60/WP. Age 25-40.

Please telephone Sabina Stewart on 01-588 3535.

Personnel
£15,000

Combine your interest in Personnel with your language skills (French, German or Italian) and work for two Directors of a highly respected international company. Based in the Personnel Department, you will be responsible for some recruitment and general administration as well as full secretarial support (60 typing, shorthand useful). Age 24-30.

Please telephone Fiona Marriott on 01-434 4512.

Crone Corkill

Multilingual

The Language Specialists

RECRUIT-VOUS A VOUS. A French company is currently seeking for a new secretary in the following areas: 1. French speaking secretary with good Wm and shorthand skills. 2. French speaking secretary with good Wm and shorthand skills. 3. French speaking secretary with good Wm and shorthand skills. 4. French speaking secretary with good Wm and shorthand skills. 5. French speaking secretary with good Wm and shorthand skills. 6. French speaking secretary with good Wm and shorthand skills. 7. French speaking secretary with good Wm and shorthand skills. 8. French speaking secretary with good Wm and shorthand skills. 9. French speaking secretary with good Wm and shorthand skills. 10. French speaking secretary with good Wm and shorthand skills. 11. French speaking secretary with good Wm and shorthand skills. 12. French speaking secretary with good Wm and shorthand skills. 13. French speaking secretary with good Wm and shorthand skills. 14. 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Taking the pain out of high mortgage costs

The six companies in Barratt's central region, for example, announced last week an extension of their offer of mortgages with a rate of 7.5 per cent. In November they offered this rate on up to £40,000 of a mortgage, with Barratt paying the difference, until January 1991, in a bid to stabilize the market. Demand for the scheme, bringing savings worth up to £150 a month, has led Barratt to extend the scheme for a further year.

Barratt has also introduced a "partnership mortgage" across the country, enabling first-time buyers to move on to, and subsequently up, the property ladder. By paying a 5 per cent deposit, the purchaser buys the house outright, but makes mortgage repayments only on the first 75 per cent of its value. There are no repayments on the remaining 20 per cent until after four years, during which time the owner enjoys capital appreciation on the whole property. The scheme, made available by the mortgage advisers John Charcol Ltd, is designed to make a much

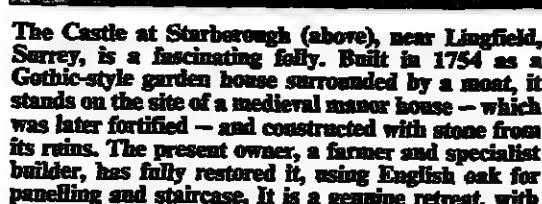
Exclusive homes. At Amwell Grange, Amwell, near Ware, Hertfordshire, these are priced from £174,500 to £234,950, while at Palace Gardens, at Royston, Hertfordshire, a small development of four and five bedroom homes of Victorian-style design is £255,000 to £285,000.

Richard Field, development director of the Prudential Mortgage Company, asserts that people are still willing to move if mortgages are valued competitively. He

A different form of subsidy is being offered by the Herefordshire builder Border Oak, which specializes in constructing half-timbered houses using English oak, Elizabethan techniques and "20th-century technology".

The company's two main projects are being completed, at Lower Woodhouse, Shobdon, where two large barns surrounding a central courtyard have been restored, and at Mordiford, where four cottages have been built. The largest barn is priced at £159,950, while the cottages cost from £85,999 to £87,500, but the firm has given the selling agents, GA Town & Country's Leominster office, £100,000 to tailor the costs to the needs of customers.

An Englishman's home is...



water on all four sides, a boat which could provide further accommodation in the moat, and is set in about three acres. An Ancient Monument and listed Grade II* building, it has a large reception room with a minstrel gallery that functions as a kitchen, a principal bedroom and a second bedroom. The Castle is for sale in excess of £750,000 through London and Oxford, Surrey, offices of agents Ibbett Mosely.

**Lewes offices are asking for
offers around \$500,000**

having been built for Charles II in the 1670s. The Palace, mostly demolished in 1819, was acquired by the Rothschild family in about 1867. The four-storey mansion is for sale with planning consent for a change of use to offices, together with a penthouse flat, or for conversion to 13 flats. Offers around £400,000 are invited by the agent.

● The Grade II listed, Georgian clockhouse on the Heligan estate near Mervagissey, Cornwall, is a fine conversion from the early 18th-century coach house and stables on a private estate three minutes' drive from the coast. One of four dwellings, the clockhouse, built of stone with granite quothers, has a central clocktower, a weather vane. It has two reception rooms and two bedrooms, and is for sale at £145,000 through the waterfalls and country homes department of Miller and Company at Truro.

Abstract

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

A station plan in the grand style

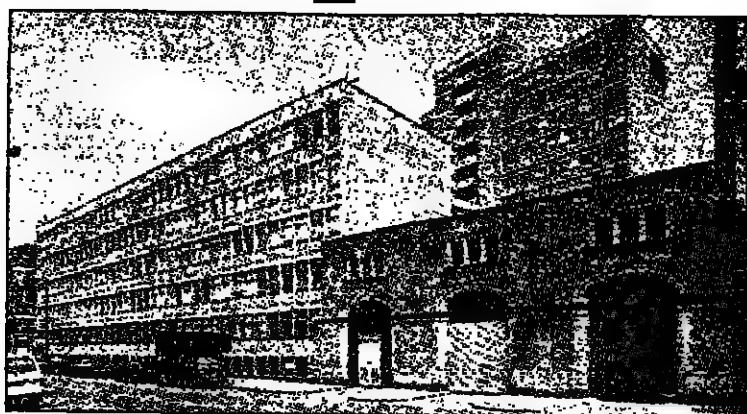
Marylebone is the latest rail landmark to receive the facelift treatment

Marylebone station is the latest of London's main rail termini to have approved or proposed large-scale redevelopment around it. The plan is to redevelop a 2.5-acre site adjoining the station to provide 300,000 sq ft of offices and 60 apartments. Nearby, in a separate scheme, the grand building that started life in 1899 as the Great Central Hotel, one of the city's original station hotels but not used as such since the Second World War, will revert to its former use.

This plan concentrating on Marylebone follows schemes for Paddington and Victoria submitted in the past two months, and projects under way or planned for Liverpool Street, King's Cross, Charing Cross, Cannon Street and Waterloo.

Lynton, in conjunction with British Rail, has submitted a planning application for the development, to be known as Marylebone Gate. As well as offices and flats, the scheme involves improving the station concourse and forecourt facilities, although the station buildings are not being developed, nor will there be any building over the railway lines.

Last year Lynton bought Melbury House, an 11-storey,



Transformation: Melbury House (left), looking nondescript today, is planned to become part of Marylebone Gate (right, as seen by an artist)

130,000 sq ft, 1950s office building from an institutional owner for £12 million. Melbury House is identified in Westminster City Council's draft revised planning brief for Marylebone station as having considerable redevelopment potential in a comprehensive improvement scheme for the

station and adjoining British Rail properties.

The architects for the scheme are Michael Hopkins & Partners, at present working on the redevelopment of the former Financial Times building, Bracken House. They have designed a seven-storey building of 300,000

sq ft, around a full-height central atrium. They have tried to ensure that the proposals respect the surrounding area, which includes the old Great Central Hotel, the nearby Dorset Square conservation area and other listed buildings. The Marylebone station forecourt will be refurbished, and

the Victorian iron and glass canopy, the Porte Cochere, renovated. Gordon Edington, Lynton's managing director, says Marylebone is one of the few sites near the West End capable of supporting a new office building on this big scale.

How a higher business rate can cut rents

The expected future over the uniform business rate for commercial properties being introduced this April has obscured some longer-term effects of the new system.

One effect is that rents in some sectors will fall, the leading rating surveyor Fuller Peiser concludes. Fuller Peiser says retailers in prime positions are the worst hit - Harrods' bill will be up from £1 million to £8.3 million and Selfridges' from £1.8

million to £6.2 million once phasing-in is completed. Retail warehouses and hi-tech properties face average increases of between 55 and 90 per cent.

Red Thomas, of Fuller Peiser's national rating department, says: "These huge rate increases over the next five years or so will inevitably lead to rents being slashed in some sectors. New prime developments completed or occupied after April 1, 1990, will be particularly badly af-

ected as occupiers will not benefit from the Government's phasing rates."

He believes the norm of upward-only rent reviews will eventually have to give way to market forces. "I think some new retail and hi-tech properties will prove very difficult to let unless developers respond realistically," Thomas says.

The chartered surveyor St Quintin sees inequality in the implementation. The big rises

are mainly in the South, which is where the loudest protests are being made. But the position of many Northern companies, due to benefit from reduced rates, has not been harmed.

Peter Damesick, at St Quintin, says these businesses will have their reduction deferred until phasing-in of increased rates in the next five years is completed. They are therefore financing the phasing-in of rises in the South, he says.

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

IN THE MARKET

Motorway magnet

● The importance of motorway links has attracted Capital & Counties to buy an 11.6-acre site at Redditch, Worcestershire, from the borough council for £5.4 million to develop a £20 million office park. It will be called the Parklands Office Campus.

The site, which will have 120,000 sq ft of offices, is close to both Redditch town centre and the M42, the motorway that serves the growing Birmingham and West Midlands conurbation, while the new M40 extension will provide a 10-minute drive, providing links to north and south.

The campus will be designed to house companies seeking a national or regional headquarters in a landscaped setting.

Bucks in the lead

● Buckinghamshire emerges as the leading county in retail rental growth in the past two years, with an increase of 102 per cent, Edward Erdman reports in its look at the pattern in individual counties. However, the regional picture shows the Midlands at the top, with a 51 per cent growth.

Second to Buckinghamshire in the county league is Shropshire, with 100 per cent rental growth since July 1987. Edward Erdman reports in its look at the pattern in individual counties. However, the regional picture shows the Midlands at the top, with a 51 per cent growth.

Edward Erdman says a comparable performance during the next two years cannot be expected, as the latest forecasts of consumer spending in 1990 are less than one quarter of that recorded in 1988. But it adds: "This period will present opportunities for the shrewd investor to acquire undervalued properties with potential to appreciate on the next consumer upswing."

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

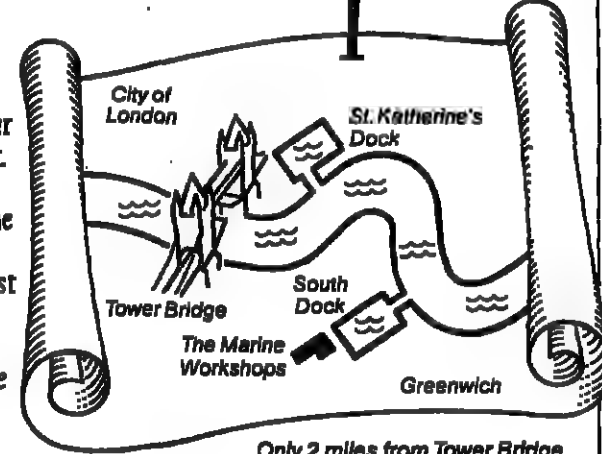
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Putting an end to the race of the corrupt

Changing the name of a football club — from Dynamo Bucharest to Unirea Tricolor — and disbanding a few sides associated with the more abject institutions of the Ceausescu regime will not satisfy increasingly assertive public opinion in Romania.

"Do you know how many clean games Cornil Hunedoara have played in the first half of the season?" Romulus Gabor, the international, said. "Well, I'll tell you. Only three out of 17. The rest were all fixed." The championship league became a race of the corrupt.

Cosmetic changes will not do because suspicion and recriminations are a way of life these days. The bloodshed and the years of repression make much-needed reconciliation extremely difficult and haste after the recent events could be regarded as indecent.

On the one hand, the provisional leadership of the Romanian Football Federation (FRF) has to ensure that the nation's international commitments, its presence in the World Cup finals this summer in particular, are fulfilled. The league is due to restart, in a modified form, in the spring — the harshness of the Romanian winter forces a split season — and the national team needs a calming down period after the traumas of the last few weeks.

On the other hand, the legacy of the previous regime makes a return to normalcy difficult. The makeshift wooden cross adorned with the hats of the teenagers massacred in the centre of Bucharest stands only a few hundred yards from the headquarters of the Romanian sports ministry and the football federation, providing a tragic reminder of the magnitude of the task.

Initially, Valentin Ceausescu, the son of the president, was invited to become "master" of Steaua to prevent the intimidation used by their foremost opponents, Dynamo, the team of the Ministry of the Interior. Soon Steaua became the perpetrators of the same kind of excesses. General Tudor Postelnicu, became the patron of Flacara Moreni.

The Barbolescu clan, the relatives of Ceausescu in the village of Scornicești, sponsored FC Olt. Nicu, the heir-apparent, became the "supporter" of Inter Sibiu while the top brass in Bucharest Securitate threw their weight behind Victoria Bucharest.

Universitatea Craiova and Poli Timisoara became the symbols of dissidence in football. While the students from Timisoara paid for their gallant attempt to challenge with relegation, the former champions, Universitatea Craiova, became the leading resistance club against injustice in football.

Universitatea's wins against Steaua, Dynamo, Victoria and Olt were greeted by supporters throughout the country as triumphs for justice.

Not unexpectedly, the free football fraternity in Romania voted the full back, Gheorghe Popescu, of Craiova, as the best player of 1989. Despite threats, Popescu resisted bravely



AFTER THE REVOLUTION

Romania has long been renowned for sporting excellence. Chris Than, a Romanian journalist who is based in England, has returned to his homeland to see how the fall of the Ceausescu regime has affected sport and sportsmen there. In the second of a three-part series, he considers how the upheavals will affect the national football team as it prepares for the World Cup finals and how the rugby union side has suffered the heaviest losses

the attempts of the Ceausescus to poach him for the army club.

"During my national service, when I was at a school for reserve officers, I saw Ceausescu once sent three armed soldiers to take me to him in order to intimidate me into signing for Steaua," Popescu said. "I told him they can do anything they wanted with me but I was not going to play for Steaua."

The corruption theme is present in every newspaper article in the Romania's free Press. The appointments of referees have come under fire and they are going to be investigated. Newspapers write about how senior Romanian football clubs began to dictate to the editor of *Sportul*, Cornel Popescu, the appointment of sympathetic writers to cover their matches. However, personalities like Gheorghe Popescu and the former international goalkeeper, Ion Voinescu, refused to compromise.

"The Football Federation became a genuine Mafia," Voinescu, still a legendary name in Romanian sport, said.

After the revolution, Voinescu, who won 40 caps between 1949 and 1962, has decided to pick up his association with football and tackle some of the ills which afflicted the game.

"I have to confess I was not a



Stark symbol of a nation's sacrifice: the wooden cross in Bucharest

hero," he said. "I did not join the revolution. I rather swept me away. I live near television and I went out to buy some bread and there it was, a huge column of youngsters. Suddenly, someone recognized me and shouted: 'Voinescu is here.' Very soon everyone was chanting: 'Voinescu is with us,' and they cheered endlessly."

"I have been cheered many a time on various stadiums. But this was something special. This was real life. It was the first time I was cheered as a citizen. I can safely say that this was the most important experience of my life. Suddenly, I felt ashamed. Those kids were prepared to die to change the face of the country and I was unable to take a moral stand."

"This was a moral revolution. The youngsters wanted to get rid

of the old ways. I'm just worried now that some people are trying to hijack the revolution."

There are few people so well placed as Voinescu to effect change. Even one of the new deputy sports ministers, the former football international, Cornel Dinu, must overcome criticism attracted by his association with both Dynamo Bucharest and FC Olt, as a player and a coach respectively.

However, he was the first athlete to appear on television publicly supporting the National Salvation Front in its hour of need and he was rewarded with an official position, a decision criticized by several newspapers.

The Sports Minister, Mircea Angelescu, made clear that he intends to stand down as president of the Football Federation at the

annual general meeting on February 5. He is a competent administrator and, as in most other walks of life in Romania, he is needed, since there is a shortage of competent sports administrators able to nurture Romanian sports through this difficult period.

Angelescu is helped by three vice-presidents, Dinu, Stefan Covaci, the former manager of Ajax Amsterdam, and Ion Alexandrescu.

Voinescu has warm words about his former club-mate in the Romanian team, the present manager of Romania, Emeric Jenei.

"Jenei was always a very correct man," he said. "While he was manager of Steaua he maintained a precarious balance between the needs of the team and the demands of the 'patrons'. After the



Belodedici can be assured of a warm welcome from his colleagues

team won the European Cup he got involved in a series of exchanges with General Ilie Ceausescu, who kept threatening him with dismissal.

"I remember once when Jenei, really fed up, challenged the general saying: 'Sir, stop threatening me. If you don't like what I do, please let me go.' Luckily, Jenei became the coach of the national team."

The former Romanian manager, Mircea Lucescu, now in charge of Unirea Tricolor, also commands respect. Although associated with a dreaded police club as a player and coach, Lucescu never became a heavy-handed political dictator.

While FC Olt and Victoria Bucharest have been disbanded — their players have been given free transfers to join either their former clubs or new ones — the future of Flacara Moreni seems uncertain. No decision has yet been taken on the fate of two military clubs, Steaua and Dynamo.

Dynamo's hasty change of name to Unirea Tricolor led to a series of protests from former members of the pre-war Unirea Tricolor club (the name taken over by a textile firm for more than two decades). But they will take part in the semi-finals of the Cup Winners' Cup against Partizan Belgrade.

"Both Dynamo and Steaua will have to go in their present form and we must find a different method of funding them," Angelescu said. "We want them to be independent from their present sponsors and in the future their budget will be provided by the sports ministry rather than the army and the police. In the end, like all other clubs in the country, they'll have to become self-financing structures."

Once the perks associated with playing for Steaua or Dynamo are gone, the players will try to rejoin either their former clubs or those who offer better deals. It is

reported that the leading Steaua player, Hagi, has contacted his former club, Spartak Stuttes, for a possible transfer. Yet he is unlikely to last long in Romania. It is expected that he will sign a lucrative deal with an Italian club after the World Cup.

The new secretary of the Romanian federation, the former international, Mircea Sanda, said: "Romanian football is going to develop the professional structure. The details are not yet definitive. The players will form their own trade union. The championships will be restructured into two pools of eight between March and the end of the season. The federation is looking for new headquarters to set up an independent administration."

He added that on January 25 Romania would start preparing for the World Cup finals with a three-match tour to France and Algeria.

In a remarkable change of approach, the Romanian federation has invited Miodrag Belodedici, previously much criticized for defecting to Yugoslavia a few years ago, to play for Romania in the World Cup. The manager, Emeric Jenei, spoke with Belodedici and Red Star Belgrade officials on the phone and will fly to Belgrade shortly, hoping to remove any remaining obstacle for Belodedici joining the Romanian squad in Italy.

Belodedici has expressed an interest in playing for Romania. But he has wondered publicly whether his former teammates, like Iovan, Hagi, Lacatus, Lung Sabau or Popescu, will ever forgive him for his decision to defect, or as he put it, "to let them down when they had such a rough time."

There is very little doubt that the rest of the Romanian team will welcome the return of such an outstanding player. Most will receive him with open arms with a kind of affection and understanding.

A nation remembers the martyrs who led by example



Victim of the struggle: Murariu

Romanian rugby union is mourning dead heroes. The often empty phrase "leading by example," used in match reports, has acquired a terrible meaning during the bloody days of the revolution.

The Romanian rugby fraternity lost five brave men, who died either in a hail of bullets or were crushed to death by tanks, the greatest toll of any sport in the country.

The names of my departed friends, Florica Murariu and Radu Dumbrac, both former captains of Romania, have already attracted international attention but mention must be made of others, the equally brave Florin Butir, Mihai Toporan and Stan Bogdan, who died, and of Constantin Christian and Vasile Ungureanu, who were injured.

"They died to make sure that we are free. We have an obligation towards them. We cannot dis-

appoint our martyrs," Radu Demian, the interim secretary of the Romanian Rugby Federation, said. The main priority of the new secretary — who played at No. 8 for Romania and Toulon in France during the Sixties — is to organize the first free election in the post-war history of the federation.

Second, he has to devise survival plans for rugby after a decade of neglect and downright hostility from the communist authorities because of the sport's Western outlook and the close friendship which developed between players and administrators on either side of the now drawn Iron Curtain.

Two years ago Demian rejected an offer to become the secretary of the federation: "I refused to be appointed simply because the former National Sports Council was like a sandcastle, a structure ready to collapse because of the incompetence and indifference of

those who are supposed to run Romanian sport," he said.

"The decline of Romanian rugby internationally is just a reflection of the desperate state of the game in the country. We don't have grounds. We have fewer grounds now than we had 10 years ago. There are clubs where they simply cannot afford to buy jerseys."

"We can't afford to buy boots and balls because we couldn't spend any hard currency. The daily allowance for food for players were not enough even to cater for the breakfast. And the activist who had run the sport expected us to be able to match France and England."

Romanian rugby officials have broken the Ceausescu legal strait-jacket to be able to survive. Romanian players were forbidden by the tyrant's laws to keep more than about £2 of their daily International Rugby Board allowance.

Irimescu Moraru, Radulescu or Mihalescu simply ignored the law. The commissioners of Romanian sport were left unaware of Romania's membership to the International Rugby Board.

In 1987, after the World Cup, the then Romanian secretary, Christescu Mitrea, and the coaching administrator, Dumitru Mitulescu, decided to sign the application form without the knowledge of their superiors. I smuggled the paper out of the country and a day later it landed on the desk of Bob Weighill (secretary of the English Rugby Football Union). Romania became an associate member of the board and was accepted to play in the World Cup.

The frustration and anger of the Romanian players led to countless defections and one of the earliest decisions of the newly installed authorities was to cancel the

Ceausescu law on defections — which labelled the athletes traitors and sentenced them to many years in prison.

Two of the most recent defectors, Laureatin Constantin, who defected in Agen in 1987 and Christian Radulescu, who stayed behind in Edinburgh last December, have been invited to play for Romania in Italy in April and against France in May.

Viorel Moraru, who had been thrown out of his job coaching his club, Grivita Rosie, after the defection of his son Octavian, has re-emerged among the group of determined men willing to put Romanian rugby back on the map.

The former coaching administrator, Valeriu Irimescu, one of the architects of Romania's ascendancy during the 1970s and early 1980s, is also among them. However, the Romanians are faced with

an uphill struggle as the number of players in the country has declined steadily to the present all-time low of about 6,000 to 7,000.

Demian said: "We are unable to go on tour this year to Japan and New Zealand. We are aware that the cancellation of a rugby tour is a terrible blow to the sport union but we ask both Japan and New Zealand to show understanding for our predicament in this hour of need. We need funds to re-equip our youngsters deprived of any Western rugby television coverage for more than a decade, we appeal to those who could help to give Romania free coverage of this year's five nations' championship."

TOMORROW
How Olympic sports will benefit from the revolution

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Plots	Off/P	Runs to resort	Weather + temp (°C)	Last snow fall
AUSTRIA							
Isch	3 13	worn varied			closed	sun 0	6/1
Only glacier skiing at Stubai worthwhile.							
FRANCE							
Chamonix	8 40	worn varied			closed	fine -1	22/12
Plots worn but snow holding due to cold weather.							
Flaine	3 50	varied rocky			closed	fine -4	22/12
All runs have snow/rocky and icy patches.							
ITALY							
Cortina	15 50	fair varied			closed	sun 0	23/12
Majority of runs open due to snow cannons, few queues.							
SWITZERLAND							
Arosa	10 30	fair varied			worn	fine 0	6/1
Most runs either rocky with patches of ice and snow or too steep to ski.							
Best skiing on Hohe Tauern.							
Devo	15 77	good varied			closed	fine -2	6/1
Generally good skiing on quiet slopes.							
Grindelwald	0 10	worn none			closed	fine -2	24/12
Grindelwald: no snow for skiing, all lifts and pistes working hard to maintain available skiing.							
St. Moritz	3 75	fair varied			closed	fine -5	6/1
Still good skiing on glacier above 2400m.							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper, and art to artificial.

SCOTLAND
Cathrae: Snow level, 2,500ft; vertical runs, 2,000ft; runs open, very little skiable snow; middle, no skiable runs; lower, only a dusting of snow; access roads right under cover; conditions, car park open, all others closed; all lifts closed. Glaciers: insufficient snow for skiing at all levels; no lifts or runs operating. Laid, trackless snow for skiing; access roads clear, but a little icy; all lifts closed. Aonach: Snow level, 2,800ft; vertical runs, 1,000ft; runs open, hard snow with a dusting of rain; lower, no snow. Glaciers: insufficient snow for skiing; all lifts and runs closed; access roads open. Forecast for the Scottish ski resorts for Wednesday: Outbreaks of rain, falling as snow above around 3,500ft, will soon move away and higher weather will spread from the west reaching all ski areas during the morning. Despite the brighter weather, widespread showers will continue over Glasgow and Aonach Hill, turning to snow above 2,500ft. The cloud base will start well down the mountains before rising to the summits during the

morning, only to fall to 1,600ft to 2,000ft during the afternoon. Outlook for Thursday and Friday: The weather will be changeable with rain spreading from the south tomorrow and on Friday, turning to snow above 2,800ft. The winds strong with gusts over summits.

Information supplied by the Scottish Meteorological Office.

NORWAY

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Information supplied by the Norwegian National Tourist Office.

Screen says yes

Belle Vue have agreed terms for the new speedway season with Joe Screen, the 1989 Young Rider of the Year. Screen should sign this week.

Tongans want to host a tour by Wales

By David Hands

The Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) hopes to be able to announce plans for an end-of-season tour when its general committee meets next month. Last month the prospect of a visit to Japan fell through because of involvement in World Cup qualifying matches, and the WRU tour committee has since canvassed various alternatives likely to offer meaningful preparation for the national squad.

Tonga indicated yesterday that they would be prepared to host the Welsh, against whom they played in 1986 and during the 1987 World Cup. Taniela Tuka, the Tongan Rugby Union secretary, said a short tour would help both countries in their preparations for the 1991 World Cup, while the South Pacific islands, in general, are seeking games against the senior rugby-playing countries who are visiting their part of the world.

England played Fiji in a one-off international at the end of their tour to Australia in 1988 but both France and Scotland have declined to do so. However, Fiji are to tour Japan in late February in order to develop their rugby.

Teague has point to prove

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Mike Teague, who returned with England's training party from the Canaries on Monday evening having been relegated to the replacements for next week's international against Ireland, will make his first league appearance for the season for Gloucester on Saturday in their first division match at Leicester.

Teague, the England and British Isles flanker, has made only one club appearance since recovering from a damaged shoulder. Otherwise, his abbreviated season has been taken up with divisional matches and the odd guest appearance. But now he takes over from Barry Clark in his club position of No. 8 in a

pack which also includes Richard Pascall, the returning divisional and England B prop. The man who will occupy the No. 6 shirt for England at Twickenham, Mickey Skinner, will miss Harlequin's league game with Rosslyn Park because he has extended his stay in the Canaries. Chris Sheehy will take his place.

Bath welcome back Stuart Barnes, their captain and stand-off half, after six weeks absence with a torn calf muscle. It will be little comfort to Bedford, without a league win this season, that Bath, the champions, are at their strongest. Fielding 12 internationals.

London Scottish, leaders of the third division, hope to confirm today arrangements for their league game with Exeter. Both Scottish and Richmond, their co-teams who play Liverpool St Helens, were drawn at the Athletic Ground and Richmond have preference for this particular weekend.

A suggestion by Scottish that their game be played on Sunday has been rejected by Exeter. Colin Osborne, Zimbabwe's assistant coach for the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand three years ago, has given Moseley a much needed boost by agreeing to join their coaching panel.

The proposed Welsh league would swallow up 14 of the 18 Saturdays in the first half of next season.

Coventry need to find seven English clubs to replace their Welsh opponents. Waterloo, Nottingham and Rosslyn Park may fill three gaps. The lack of other top-class opposition means that if Coventry are promoted to the Courage Clubs Championship first division, they are likely to play Moseley and Bristol three times next season.

Irish prop out for six weeks

By George Ace

Although an operation has been deemed unnecessary, Jimmy McCoy, the Ireland high-tail prop, faces a lengthy period of inactivity. He ruptured a thumb tendon in his right hand during Saturday's Irish trial, was not considered for the match against England at Twickenham on Saturday week and faces six weeks with his thumb in splints. But if that does not induce a complete recovery, the thumb may remain in splints for a further six weeks.

"I have had a few injuries in my career but a kick in the thumb ruling you out for six weeks and possibly three months surely takes the biscuit," McCoy said yesterday. "I am still hopeful of being right for the game against France in Paris on March 3."

There are no alarm bells ringing in the Irish camp over the recurrence of the calf muscle injury which forced Des Fitzgerald to miss Sunday's practice. The muscle tightened up a little following Saturday's session but we expect Fitzgerald to be 100 per cent fit for Twickenham, an IRFU spokesman said yesterday.

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FOOTBALL: CHAIRMAN'S DELIBERATIONS SIGNAL CHANGES AT UPTON PARK

Players go to court over tax charges

Amsterdam (Reuter) — Eleven men, including officials and players from the Dutch first division team, Ajax, are being summoned to appear in court in May to face tax-evasion and fraud charges.

Leo W. Wijk, the Amsterdam public prosecutor, said the affair involved several million guilders but he declined to specify the amount or to disclose the names of those being prosecuted.

The parties involved are facing a maximum sentence of eight years' imprisonment and fines. "They will all get a court summons by mail and their lawyers have until January 12 to react or ask further investigations," De Wijk said.

The affair first came to light in October 1988. In August last year, the Dutch fiscal fraud squad, FIOD, ended investigations into financial details of a number of players' transfers from 1986.

Among the investigated transfers were those of Henning Jensen, Felix Gaschell, Wim Kieft, Piet Hamberg, Simon Tahvanainen and Soeren Lerby. Lerby, Anton Harsenen, the former chairman, and the former team managing committee members, Leo Bartels and Adrie van Eliden, were arrested in 1988 and the Ajax board resigned over the affair.

Dutch fiscal authorities are seeking about 1.5 million guilders (about \$458,000) in back taxes from Ajax alone.

Lerby, aged 51, left Ajax in 1983 and, after spells with the West German side, Bayern Munich, and the French first division club, Monaco, now plays for Dutch rivals PSV Eindhoven.

Ajax last year received an additional tax bill of 9.4 million guilders (about £2.8 million) including a three million guilders (about \$915,000) penalty for under-reporting.

BOLOGNA: Lionello Manfredonia, the AS Roma defender who suffered a heart attack during a league match here on December 30, was discharged from hospital yesterday (AFP sports).

Manfredonia, aged 33, was taken semi-conscious to hospital after collapsing during Roma's 1-1 draw with Bologna and was in a critical condition for several days.

Ernesto Accicco, the Roma club doctor, is slightly more optimistic that Manfredonia might be able to play again despite reports last week that he was over 60.

Only one will tell if he can resume playing, Accicco said. "We will have to wait and see what the tests show when he returns from convalescence."

Manfredonia's heart condition was not reported until after the match. Roma's manager, Bruno Bagnato, said the club was not aware of the problem.

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Cearns seeking the right time to step down at West Ham

By Dennis Signy

After 42 years as a director of West Ham United, the last 11 of them as chairman, Len Cearns is deliberating over the right time to hand over the reins of the troubled east London club.

Cearns, a former Army captain who has served on the Football League management committee, announced his intention of standing down at the annual meeting last year when he told shareholders that he planned to remain a director but there would be a change of chairman.

His intention was to hand over to his son, Martin, who is on the board, but Cearns, aged 76, feels a decision to leave now, with Lou Macari, the club manager, facing an FA charge concerning a bet on a football match involving Swindon Town, his previous club, might be misinterpreted and also leave any problems with his successor.

Although unwell, Cearns travelled to the west country at the weekend for his club's defeat in the third round of the FA Cup at Torquay United to give support to Macari.

Another reason Cearns feels his timing has to be right is that Michael Wallace, a property dealer with interests in Portugal, has acquired 30 per

cent of the shares in the club and is now the largest single shareholder. He purchased the holdings of Reg Pratt, the former chairman, from his family and is said to be paying £1,000 for shares originally priced at 50p; discussions about Wallace joining the board did not materialise.

West Ham has traditionally been a family club. There are three members of the Cearns family on the board: Len, his brother, Will, who is vice-chairman, and his son, Martin, aged 45, and the fourth generation to become a director. In addition, Charles Warner, another director, is a great-grandson of Arnold Hills, the last chairman of Thames Ironworks and the instigator of the works team which was to become West Ham United. The families own more than 50 per cent of the shares.

Mick McGiven, a believer in the Ron Greenwood-John Lyall approach to football that has been a hallmark of West Ham for three decades, joined the coaching staff at Chelsea yesterday. He met the staff and players before they set off for today's FA Cup third round replay at Crewe Alexandra, then travelled with the reserve side to Portsmouth.

McGiven, aged 39, resigned from West Ham last week after 16 years as a player and coach because he felt he needed a change of direction.

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Shining like moonlight in Vermont

MARC ASPLAND



Runaway Vermont: Pete Ward is as elusive as a moonbeam as he is chased by two players from Sheffield University, who confined the touring University of Vermont men's lacrosse team to the most respectable score — from an English point of view — so far when the Americans won by 11-8 at Sheffield yesterday.

Vermont had trounced South of England 15-7 on Sunday and a combined Hillcroft and Beckenham 12-1 the day before.

Sheffield University went into an early 2-0 lead through the England players, Hallows and Symington. At the first

quarter, Sheffield led 5-4 and they were 8-6 up at the half-time hooter.

Sheffield, mainly thwarted by McCabe, the opposing goalkeeper, in the closing minutes, did not score in the second half whereas Vermont pounded in five.

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SKIING

Schneider ecstasy after pain killers

Hinterstoder, Austria (Reuter) — Vreni Schneider, the World Cup overall champion, won a tough duel with Anita Wachter, of Austria, to take her third slalom of the Alpine season yesterday. The Swiss double Olympic champion was only 0.06 seconds ahead of Wachter in the first leg but pushed harder on the second run for a winning margin of 0.8 seconds.

Wachter, who also finished 35.27sec was a further 0.80 faster than Christine von Grunigen, her Swiss team-mate, who was third.

Schneider, winner of a record 14 World Cup events last season, including all seven slaloms won the opening slalom in Park City, Utah, but missed the second at Steamboat Springs, Colorado, in December after injuring a knee in downhill training. She made a triumphant return from surgery on Saturday to win the slalom in Piacavallo, Italy, but required pain-killers yesterday to complete a course that claimed 15 retirements in the second leg.

Wachter, who also finished second in Monday's giant slalom here, moved into the overall lead in the World Cup with 155 points, seven ahead of Michaela Gerg, of West Germany, who does not ski slalom.

Petra Kronberger, the Austrian all-rounder, who won Monday's giant slalom, is third with 133pts and Schneider is fourth with 105, having closed the gap between them by 17pts.

In the slalom standings, Schneider leads with 75pts, 17 more than Claudia Strolz, of Austria, who won at Steamboat Springs, and 20 more than Wachter.

Schneider displayed her familiar supremacy in the second, steeper part of the course on the second leg, where she built most of her winning margin. "I think I was in good luck, especially since the course was already starting to break under higher temperatures," she said.

The temperature rose almost 10°C to minus two overnight and proved too much for the bumpy course, which was covered with a mixture of natural and artificial snow.

RESULTS: Slalom: 1, V Schneider (Switzerland), 35.27sec; 2, A Wachter (Austria), 36.07; 3, C Strolz (Austria), 36.28; 4, K Buder (Austria), 37.35; 5, S Gerg (West Germany), 37.78; 6, M Bodek (Austria), 38.02; 7, C Kronberger (Austria), 38.04; 8, S Wachter (Austria), 38.05; 9, C Strolz (Austria), 38.06; 10, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.07; 11, S Wachter (Austria), 38.08; 12, A Wachter (Austria), 38.09; 13, C Strolz (Austria), 38.10; 14, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.11; 15, S Wachter (Austria), 38.12; 16, C Strolz (Austria), 38.13; 17, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.14; 18, S Wachter (Austria), 38.15; 19, C Strolz (Austria), 38.16; 20, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.17; 21, S Wachter (Austria), 38.18; 22, C Strolz (Austria), 38.19; 23, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.20; 24, S Wachter (Austria), 38.21; 25, C Strolz (Austria), 38.22; 26, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.23; 27, S Wachter (Austria), 38.24; 28, C Strolz (Austria), 38.25; 29, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.26; 30, S Wachter (Austria), 38.27; 31, C Strolz (Austria), 38.28; 32, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.29; 33, S Wachter (Austria), 38.30; 34, C Strolz (Austria), 38.31; 35, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.32; 36, S Wachter (Austria), 38.33; 37, C Strolz (Austria), 38.34; 38, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.35; 39, S Wachter (Austria), 38.36; 40, C Strolz (Austria), 38.37; 41, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.38; 42, S Wachter (Austria), 38.39; 43, C Strolz (Austria), 38.40; 44, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.41; 45, S Wachter (Austria), 38.42; 46, C Strolz (Austria), 38.43; 47, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.44; 48, S Wachter (Austria), 38.45; 49, C Strolz (Austria), 38.46; 50, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.47; 51, S Wachter (Austria), 38.48; 52, C Strolz (Austria), 38.49; 53, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.50; 54, S Wachter (Austria), 38.51; 55, C Strolz (Austria), 38.52; 56, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.53; 57, S Wachter (Austria), 38.54; 58, C Strolz (Austria), 38.55; 59, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.56; 60, S Wachter (Austria), 38.57; 61, C Strolz (Austria), 38.58; 62, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.59; 63, S Wachter (Austria), 38.60; 64, C Strolz (Austria), 38.61; 65, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.62; 66, S Wachter (Austria), 38.63; 67, C Strolz (Austria), 38.64; 68, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.65; 69, S Wachter (Austria), 38.66; 70, C Strolz (Austria), 38.67; 71, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.68; 72, S Wachter (Austria), 38.69; 73, C Strolz (Austria), 38.70; 74, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.71; 75, S Wachter (Austria), 38.72; 76, C Strolz (Austria), 38.73; 77, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.74; 78, S Wachter (Austria), 38.75; 79, C Strolz (Austria), 38.76; 80, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.77; 81, S Wachter (Austria), 38.78; 82, C Strolz (Austria), 38.79; 83, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.80; 84, S Wachter (Austria), 38.81; 85, C Strolz (Austria), 38.82; 86, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.83; 87, S Wachter (Austria), 38.84; 88, C Strolz (Austria), 38.85; 89, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.86; 90, S Wachter (Austria), 38.87; 91, C Strolz (Austria), 38.88; 92, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.89; 93, S Wachter (Austria), 38.90; 94, C Strolz (Austria), 38.91; 95, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.92; 96, S Wachter (Austria), 38.93; 97, C Strolz (Austria), 38.94; 98, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.95; 99, S Wachter (Austria), 38.96; 100, C Strolz (Austria), 38.97; 101, M Gerg (West Germany), 38.98; 102, S Wachter (Austria), 38.99; 103, C Strolz (Austria), 39.00; 104, M Gerg (West Germany), 39.01; 105, S Wachter (Austria), 39.02; 106, C Strolz (Austria), 39.03; 107, M Gerg (West Germany), 39.04; 108, S Wachter (Austria), 39.05; 109, C Strolz (Austria), 39.06; 110, M Gerg (West Germany), 39.07; 111, S Wachter (Austria), 39.08; 112, C Strolz (Austria), 39.09; 113, M Gerg (West Germany), 39.10; 114, S Wachter (Austria), 39.11; 115, C Strolz (Austria), 39.12; 116, M Gerg (West Germany), 39.13; 117, S Wachter (Austria), 39.14; 118, C Strolz (Austria), 39.15; 119, M Gerg (West Germany), 39.16; 120, S Wachter (Austria), 39.17; 121, C Strolz (Austria), 39.18; 122, M Gerg (West Germany), 39.19; 123, S Wachter (Austria), 39.20; 124, C Strolz (Austria), 39.21; 125, M Gerg (West Germany), 39.22; 126, S Wachter (Austria), 39.23; 127, C Strolz (Austria), 39.24; 128, M Gerg (West Germany), 39.25; 129, S Wachter (Austria), 39.26; 130, C Strolz (Austria), 39.27; 131, M Gerg (West Germany), 39.28; 132, S Wachter (Austria), 39.29; 133, C Strolz (Austria), 39.30; 134, M Gerg (West Germany), 39.31; 135, S Wachter (Austria), 39.32; 136, C Strolz (Austria), 39.33; 137, M Gerg (West Germany), 39.34; 138, S Wachter (Austria), 39.35; 139, C Strolz (Austria), 39.36; 140, M Gerg

Seeking a way back for South Africa

The history of the Olympic movement has regularly shown it to have been either powerless to influence political tyrannies, such as those in Romania, Haiti, Uganda, or pre-war Germany, or simply not interested. South Africa has been another matter.

Yesterday in Paris, sensible men from both the International Olympic Committee and South African sport talked for five hours about the route which South Africa must take in order to re-emerge on the international stage. They had been scheduled to meet for one hour: reason can sometimes promote its own cause.

The statement issued afterwards by Fikile Kidane and Sam Ramsamy, the advisers to

COMMENTARY



David Miller
Chief Sports Correspondent

the IOC Apartheid Commission, who were representing the IOC, said that South Africa's position (of exclusion) could not be reviewed "until there are single, genuine, non-racial, unitary sports federations in all Olympic disciplines". This raises an intriguing scenario.

Leaving aside for the moment the inconsistent position in which the principle might

place the IOC — are there, for instance, unitary federations in Guyana, Sri Lanka, or the Philippines? — what will happen should South African sport be able to establish unitary federations in Olympic events?

The inference must be that the Olympic movement would then be obliged to re-admit South Africa, irrespective of political considerations, as is the case with every other national Olympic committee: including Romania as it existed under Ceausescu. It is sobering to recall that, following Romania's "rebel" appearance at the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1984, Ceausescu was awarded an Olympic medal at a ceremony

which I, to my present shame, attended.

The well-intentioned gesture of that investiture by Juan Antonio Samaranch, the President of the IOC — a trap of Ceausescu's deceit into which other international leaders fell — was meant to prove that sport can overcome politics: as it did in Seoul, for instance. And as it did in Paris yesterday.

Kidane and Ramsamy have as much reason as any to be prejudiced against white South Africans, but Kidane emerged from the talks with evident optimism. "It was a very positive meeting," he said. "Both sides are trying to fight against apartheid. The South African representatives asked that there should be a

follow-up meeting, and this request will be submitted."

A report of the meeting will be made by Kidane and Ramsamy to Samaranch in Auckland during the Commonwealth Games and to Judge Keba M'baye in due course, with a detailed report at the next meeting of the apartheid commission in Kuwait on February 19.

The South Africans will return home knowing they have made some advance. Yesterday's mood is a far cry from the situation of recent years when black African sports officials would walk out of the room if there was a white South African present, and South Africans trying to stay in touch had to travel, and book into hotels, incognito.

Johann Daplessis, the President of South Africa's present disqualified Olympic committee, said afterwards that everything now depended on the co-operation that could be achieved back home. Black South African resistance to unitary bodies, especially by the politically orientated South African Council of Sport (SACOS) is only slowly breaking down.

"The most important thing is South African unity," Daplessis said. "To get a multiplicity that represents all people in our country. If we can establish this, we will have a much easier road to get back to international competition."

The way for the South Africans to achieve the support of the black majority for non-racial federations is to establish, as is now being done increasingly in cricket, facilities for playing and coaching at school level. People will always respond to practical opportunity rather than political dogma, and what is evident to anyone who travels around in black South Africa is that what the people want most of all is to get out and play.

Daplessis said that he would particularly seek further meetings with Kidane and Ramsamy, who had been most encouraging. He considered that the chance to enlist non-white South African representatives would arise as soon as they could establish umbrella bodies.

END COLUMN

Options for the viewers increase

By John Goodbody

The BBC is finding its unquestioned dominance of televised sport increasingly under threat. ITV, ignoring any moral obligation to cover a wide variety of events, has a policy of live and exclusive coverage and is therefore able to chip away at the BBC's supremacy in certain areas by being able to concentrate its financial resources on a few sports. It has exclusive deals with the Football League, athletics and also the International Rugby Board for the 1991 World Cup.

The satellite companies are already beginning to offer another option for viewers and both satellite and cable will have the opportunity to benefit from the government's intention to abolish the 10 "listed events," which previously had to be shown on a national network.

These include Wimbledon, the Olympic Games, and the World Cup Finals. In principle when the Broadcasting Bill becomes law, a satellite and cable channel could outbid BBC and ITV and force anyone wanting to see these events to subscribe to their services.

However the BBC is still screening the vast majority of important sports events, including all the listed events, except the Derby.

BBC invariably wins competition

In straight competition with ITV when both are screening the same event, the BBC invariably wins, partly because the BBC has shown a constant commitment to televise a wide range of sport which ITV has never done. In the public eye BBC is the sport's channel.

Jonathan Martin, the head of BBC's TV sport and events, believes that the BBC has been the biggest sponsor of sport that Britain has ever had, saying that it has had an inspirational and educational role.

Martin hopes that governing bodies will take account of the BBC's "quality of scheduling, of broadcasting, presentation and commentary. I hope it will not become a cheque competition."

"The BBC has many obligations. Commonwealth Games in New Zealand this month is a public service. In pure business terms it would make sense not to show the event through the night but to show it at 6am when there is a larger audience. Instead the BBC will do both."

The breadth of coverage stressed

Martin also underlines the breadth of coverage of BBC sport and stresses that satellite sports broadcasters do not buy exclusive coverage to a sport and when it has served its usefulness "walk away from it."

Martin thinks the satellite services can give an enhanced supplement to the networks' output. For instance he describes BSB's plans for the coverage of FA Cup replays as "terrific."

"With our obligations to news and drama we can only show the highlights."

Although this defence of the BBC's role and particularly its desire that the "listed events" should be maintained for the benefit of the vast majority of viewers has validity, there is also no doubt that the two networks have had sport cheaply until comparatively recently.

Television likes sport because it is popular and cheap. Even the Winter Olympics one of the more costly events in 1988 cost only £30,000 an hour whereas a news programme costs £115,000 and some situation comedies more than £200,000.

For years football had to contend with the BBC and ITV negotiating together and not as competitors. It is only with the present contracts that they negotiated separately. From a £25 million a year deal with the BBC and ITV, football is now getting £21 million a year in total from the networks, foreign rights and satellite services. The Football and County Cricket Board is constantly objecting to the lack of money from the BBC for televising games.

With ITV apparently not interested in most sports the BBC has had a monopoly. Many governing bodies are hopeful that with satellite and cable BBC will at last have some opposition.

Hill's injury is a harsh blow to Blackburn hopes

By Louise Taylor

A training injury to Hill, their central defender, whose damaged hamstring will keep him out for a fortnight, was an unwelcome blow to Blackburn Rovers on the eve of tonight's FA Cup third round replay with Aston Villa at Villa Park. Blackburn, who have named May as deputy, are hopeful that goalkeeper Terry Gennoe will be able to play, although he was excused training because of a heavy cold.

Aston Villa are likely to field the side which featured in Saturday's splendid contest at Ewood Park but may spring a surprise by having Dwight Yorke, a forward with World Cup experience with Trinidad and Tobago, on the bench.

Nicholas could return to the Chelsea midfield for the replay against Crewe Alexandra and there may be a place for Durie in attack. Chelsea, who went out of the Littlewoods Cup at Scarborough, face a testing evening at Gresty Road.

"I do not think my players will be over confident. That is not something people at Crewe tend to suffer from," Dario Gradi, the manager said. "We learnt a lesson from Bishop Auckland in an earlier round. They got a draw here and celebrated loud and long. Maybe they thought they had done the hard work. But I knew we were going to win

that replay, and it is the same for us now in reverse." Crewe are unchanged and will be supported by a capacity crowd of 7,500.

Norwich City could recall Coney to the attack for the third round replay with Exeter City should Rosario fail a fitness test on a knee injury.

League clubs are likely to be fielded at strong team of scouts at Carrow Road in order to assess Durran Rowbotham, who scored his 24th goal of the season for Exeter in Saturday's 1-1 draw in Devon.

Cottee may be given one last opportunity to resurrect his career with Everton in the replay against Middlesbrough at Goodison Park. Just five days after the England forward indicated his desire to leave Merseyside he could well win a first team recall at the expense of either Sharp or Newell.

Colin Harvey, the Everton manager, yesterday admitted he was concerned about his side's lack of goals. "It is my greatest problem at the moment," he said. "We are playing well enough up to the penalty area but not with a great deal of confidence inside it. It will not be easy against Middlesbrough because they are a good footballing side."

Harvey may be forced to make a change in defence as Dave Watson, the former

England international centre half is doubtful after sustaining a hamstring injury at the weekend. If he is unavailable Keown will be re-introduced alongside Ratcliffe.

Sheedy, the republic of Ireland international who was confined to the stand by ankle injury on Saturday, is poised to return on the left of the midfield at the expense of Beagrie.

Despite suffering concussion on Saturday, Proctor, of Middlesbrough, is desperate to engage in a midfield contest with Sheedy after being released from hospital.

Don Howe, the Queen's Park Rangers coach, is anticipating a "battle," when Cardiff City of the fourth division visit Loftus Road. "But at least they can't narrow our pitch," he said, in a barbed reference to Cardiff's decision to trim two yards off either side of their playing area before Saturday's 0-0 draw.

● Bristol Rovers, who share Bath City's Twerton Park ground, have applied for permission to build a new stadium at Mangotsfield, on the outskirts of Bristol.

Rosenberg Bernell, a Colombian midfielder player, aged 27, has joined Barnet, who are second in the GM Vauxhall Conference. Bernell has played first division football in Colombia.

Irish seek Scots league slot

An application from a non-existent Irish club to join the Scottish second division is almost certain to be a non-starter (Louise Taylor writes). The bold, if unorthodox, scheme was conceived by a Dublin-based business consortium headed by Colin McCarthy, a stockbroker, and Jonathan Irwin, a race-course director.

"They intend to invest £2.5 million in creating the club, called Dublin City, which would probably play at Lansdowne Park, with a team

assembled in time to feature on next season's fixture list.

"Is it Irish Blarney," Jack Steedman, the President of the Scottish League, said on hearing of the plan yesterday. "Frankly it is difficult to be serious about this, although the people behind the scheme might not be treating it lightly. I have always admired the Irish sense of humour, but as far as I am concerned there is absolutely no chance of the Scottish League being extended. The application will be treated with courtesy and

processed in the usual manner, but I am afraid that Dublin are at the bottom of a rather large queue."

Steedman said: "There are quite a few clubs who would be displeased if we allowed an Irish side to join us. In any case, I wouldn't want to be the person to tell Forfar Athletic, for example, to set off for Dublin in deepest mid-winter for a League game."

The Irish had a ready riposte. McCarthy said: "We would pay the travelling expenses of Scottish clubs. Dublin is as big a city as Glasgow with tremendous resources and potential crowds of 30,000 to 40,000. We already have more than 30 players pencilled in as available, should we receive the green light."

McCarthy believes professional football in the Republic has sunk into a "serious and irreversible decline" and that a Dublin club could only be commercially successful playing in a League outside Ireland.

Dublin City's application will be considered by the Scottish League management committee a week on Thursday. Peter Donald, the secretary, said: "There are no vacancies in the Scottish League and no plans to expand it."

Christie off the record

Lindford Christie has lost his British indoor 60 metres record of 6.52sec, set in Stuttgart last February. The time will not be ratified because the track camera was not in line with the finishing line.

An AAA official spotted the mistake in a photograph. Christie still holds the record — 6.55sec, recorded eight days earlier at the AAA championships and also at the European Championships in Budapest last March.

Willsey's task

Ray Willsey, who twice helped the Raiders, of the National Football League, to the Super Bowl, will take charge of the Birmingham team in the International League of American Football.

Inquiry into drugs control

By John Goodbody

The Sports Council is to investigate drugs control in weightlifting following a series of incidents in the sport highlighted by *The Times*.

The Government quango which spends £600,000 of taxpayers' money on countering drug abuse in Britain yesterday announced that it had agreed to a request from the British Amateur Weightlifters Association (BAWL) to undertake "a review of drug control procedures both in the past and in the future."

At Monday's meeting of the council it was agreed "in principle to the review" and the council will be having discussions concerning the composition and terms of reference of the review panel.

The council's action comes after a series of incidents in the sport. Steve Piment, the 1982 Commonwealth lightweight champion, was jailed six weeks ago for supplying anabolic steroids, the bodybuilding drug.

Piment was a link in a long, intricate chain for buying and selling drugs which stretched across Europe and the United States and involved David Jenkins, the former Olympic athletics silver medal winner.

Piment bought drugs from Richard Crawley, a former member of Britain's junior Olympic squad who was found positive for a hormone drug while competing in the 1985 National Under-23 Championships.

Tom Hawk, the British under-23 super-heavyweight powerlifting record-holder, died in a strongman competition in Salford on July 3, 1988. There is growing belief that anabolic steroids may have contributed to his death.

Seven other powerlifters, including Wayne Buck, an international heavyweight, have been positive since April.

Last week Dean Willey, who this month was seeking his third successive Commonwealth Games gold medal, was dropped from the England team because of a positive drug test and has been banned for life from the sport.

The Sports Council has expressed its dissatisfaction with the internal administration of testing in BAWLA, although last Thursday the two bodies agreed to a new programme of testing.

SPORT IN BRIEF

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Poles apart from the rest



Slalom style: Vreni Schneider, the World Cup overall skiing champion, clears a pole on her way to a third slalom win of the season yesterday at Hinterstoder, Austria. Report, page 45

Defiant return for Warren

By Bryan Stiles

He may have been gunned down in the street two months ago, but Frank Warren still relishes shooting from the hip.

On his first day back in business selling the fight game, Warren announced yesterday that he intended to defy the authorities and promote shows in which his own boxers will be in action. He does not propose to masquerade behind a front man like others to get around a recent Boxing Board of Control regulation.

He is also sure that the shady character who shot him outside the Broadway Theatre in Barking last November will soon be brought to justice.

Why would anyone want to shoot him? "I don't know. A lunatic had a gun, what could

justify that?" Although he is not yet back on an 18-hour day, Warren has recovered well from the ordeal and claimed it has made him a "harder man". He also announced startling plans to promote a show almost every week this year.

His previous highest total of shows in a year was 42 and he is aiming to break the 50 barrier, with many of them featuring world, European and British championship contests.

Although one of his lieutenants will have the job of running some of the shows they will still be put on by Frank Warren Promotions.

"The regulation is pretty ridiculous, trying to prevent a

promoter putting his own boxers on his bill," he said. "I am not having a go at anybody. It is a hard regulation to enforce because front men can be used ... but I am not looking for more trouble."

The first test will come with his next promotion. His light-middleweight, Gary Stretch, is challenging for the World Boxing Council's international crown at the London Arena on February 14. If Stretch wins it could lead to an all-British world title contest with his stablemate, Chris Pyatt.

Stretch needs a top-10 ranking like Pyatt to challenge for a world title and he will get that if he beats the Argentinian, Ramon Alegre, next month.

BBC to screen 130 hours of Games

BBC television will devote nearly 130 hours to the XIVth Commonwealth Games in New Zealand, its most comprehensive coverage ever of the quadrennial event abroad (John Goodbody writes).

BBC Television and Radio are spending £2.2 million to cover the Games from January 24 to February 3, with a team in Auckland of 87 people. Events will be screened throughout the night and there will also be a series

of highlights programmes, including a regular spot at peak viewing time from 7 to 8 p.m. on BBC1.

Since Auckland is 13 hours ahead of London the BBC is having to cater for those enthusiasts who want to stay up all night to see the events as they happen and those who want the news from Auckland when they wake up or return home from work or school.

ITV is not screening the

Games. Jonathan Martin, the head of BBC TV Sport and Events, said yesterday: "We like to have competition around because it is a yardstick by which you can judge your own coverage."

He described the team as probably the most experienced and talented in the world for an event like the Games.

The BBC will cover all 10 sports in the Games: athletics, boxing, bowls, badminton, cy-

cling, gymnastics, judo, shooting, swimming and diving, and weightlifting.

● WELLINGTON: Talks involving unions were underway yesterday in an effort to avert a municipal strike which could cause chaos to Auckland in the week prior to the Games (AFP reports). Employees of the Auckland City Council are threatening a strike from January 16 to 23. The Games open on January 24.

Wimbledon to reduce centre court capacity

By Andrew Longmore, Tennis Correspondent

One of the great traditions of Wimbledon will be ended at this year's championships. The All England Club confirmed yesterday that the standing area on the centre court, which holds 2,000, will be replaced by seats, making the stadium all-seater for the first time since it was moved to its present site in 1922.

Several other changes to improve access on centre court are being negotiated with Merton Borough Council, but the capacity could be cut by as much as 20 per cent from its level of 14,500, by the time the terms of the Fire and Safety at Sports Grounds Act have been fully implemented.

"It's very sad," Sue Youngman, of KBH Communications, said, "because

the people being hurt are the genuine classic fans, who queue for hours and then stand all day to watch the matches. But if Wimbledon could have done anything to save the standing area we would have done."

The club hopes that the tickets for the new seats will be available on the day, but no decision has been taken about how they will be allocated.

"The situation with No. 1 court is better because the position of the standing area is more favourable and because the stadium is not covered. But there will be a different nature to the event," Youngman said.



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